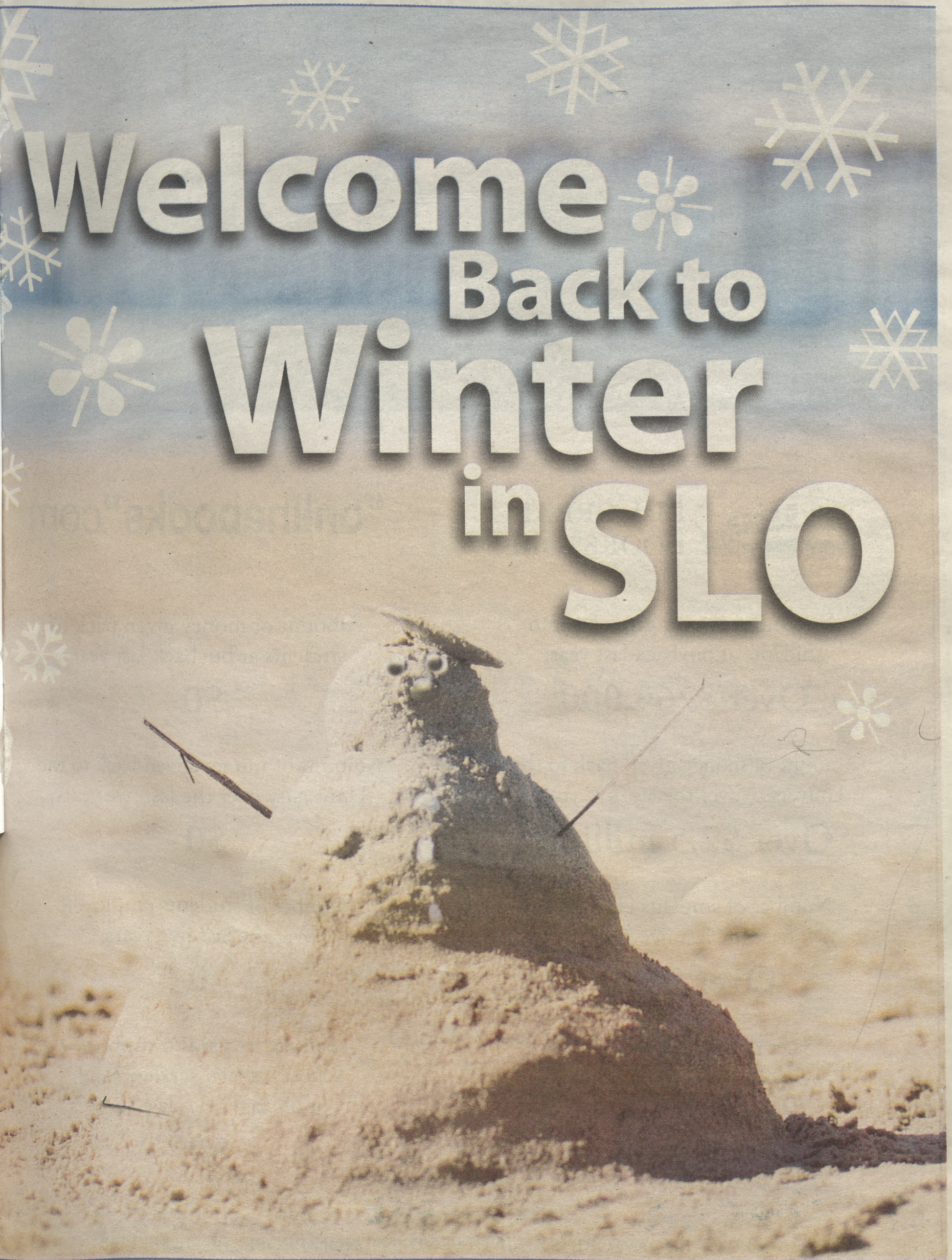


# MUSTANG DAILY

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# New state laws to affect students

Emily Rancer  
MUSTANG DAILY

As soon as the clock flashed midnight on Jan. 1, fireworks weren't the only things set off in California. Several new laws took effect too and some will benefit students.

Perhaps the most sweeping good news for students is the **75 cent rise in the state's minimum wage**. The hourly rate went from \$6.75 to \$7.50 and will shoot up to \$8 an hour in 2008.

This jump affects 180 students employed by ASI who, prior to Jan. 1, were making less than \$7.50. All those students were bumped up to the new minimum wage standard while those already making \$7.50 or more were not affected.

"The best thing about it is that the student population will not see a difference in the programs and services offered," said ASI public relations director Michelle Broom. "We are going to absorb this added cost on an interior level."

Broom said that the estimated annual impact of the raise in minimum wage for ASI will be \$78,515.

The number of students employed

by the university itself will not be known until later in the quarter, according to Marc Benadiba, the assistant director of Fiscal Services. He said that on average, about 1,700 to 1,800 students work for Cal Poly every quarter.

The various departments that employ students will be responsible for covering the added expenses, he said.

The Mustang Daily also benefited from a **new law that officially protects the student paper from censorship by the school's administration**. The law, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year, prohibits censorship of college media by administrators, making California the first state in the country to enact such a law.

However, the Mustang Daily's faculty adviser, George Ramos, said that he doesn't expect the new law to impact the paper much.

"I don't think that the Mustang Daily will be affected by this new law because the administration has always had — and with very rare exception — a hands-off attitude toward the news content of the paper," said Ramos, who is also the

journalism department chair. "I don't think it's going to change anything."

For many San Luis Obispo renters, a newly enacted law will help them out too. As of Jan. 1, **landlords are required to give 60 days' notice before evicting month-to-month tenants** who have lived in a rental for at least a year and haven't done anything to warrant eviction. Landlords previously had 30 days to give notice.

While some smokers gave up their habit as a New Year's resolution, those who continue smoking will be puffing on slightly different cigarettes this year. **California merchants can now only sell "fire safe" cigarettes** intended to prevent fires by going out quickly when not being puffed. These cigarettes will be sold once merchants have depleted their supplies bought before Jan. 1.

Students under 21 beware: **drinking and driving under the legal age is no longer a civil penalty, but a crime**. The law eliminates confusion by prior law that made it a criminal offense for a person under 21 to possess alcohol, but did not make it a crime for that same person to drive a vehicle intoxicated.

## By the NUMBERS

60

The number of days' notice landlords must give month-to-month tenants before evicting them.

\$7.50

The new minimum wage in California.

6

Maximum number of months a person serve in jail for leaving pets unattended in a car.

## COMMENTARY

# No love lost on labor

Jenny Pedersen  
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

Let's be honest: There is nothing left to celebrate. Christmas decorations have gone on clearance for half price and the new year is already well underway. It's time we all returned to the regularly scheduled programming of our humdrum lives — except for one small glimmer of hope that may prove to keep my spirits high throughout the rest of this bitterly cold and boring January.

That's right, folks: the rise of the minimum wage.

Some of the more blue-blooded among us won't quite understand the importance of this 75 cent increase. However, such an increase means that for every nail breaking and slightly degrading hour of my minimum wage labor, I am three shiny quarters closer to making rent for the month.

An extra 75 cents is like a good drink: it takes the edge off — off the coffee spilled on your newly cleaned shirt, the screaming children, cantankerous cooks, refilling the ketchup bottles, or the sticky smell of stale beer. Seventy-five cents alleviates part of the headache caused by calorie-cutting

customers in expensive jogging outfits who forget to order their dressing on the side and then insist upon a whole new salad. Or the customers who play musical tables and push all the chairs so close together that only a corset would make it possible to squeeze past as you deliver plates of food, which are slowly burning away the nerves on your fingertips.

The pangs of stress from managers who are never satisfied with the consistency of your cappuccino foam and the number of ice cubes you put in a glass has been slightly reduced. Similarly, the sting is less smarting from heavy-handed hints about your future unemployment which are casually dropped into conversations after every shift.

Though what may be worse is a manager who feigns false concern in your well being. The only right answer to their pleasantries is fine, great, so good, just happy to be here serving your fine establishment. When, in reality, you'd rather be anywhere else and are secretly entertaining visions of flinging your pen straight into the eye of the next unfortunate soul to step up to the cash reg-

see Wage Rise, page 4

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## Wage Rise

*continued from page 3*

ister.

Then there is every service worker's nightmare: the stingy tipper, a category of person I personally feel has their own reserved place in the cafeteria, where every food dish has been spit into. Now, I realize this is a college town, where we're all poor and unwilling to tip for any service short of being spoon-fed.

A slight word to the wise cheap-skates, because some of you could really use the good karma.

For instance, guys who can't seem to raise their eyes anywhere above the neck (you know who you are). If you treat the women who serve you with the same amount of

respect you'd give a stripper, that is your choice, then at least tip them accordingly in 10s and 20s.

Then there are those customers who only order tea or coffee but open and scatter 20 separate Splenda packets to the four winds just to make their presence known. Unless the server is your mother, make sure to tip them. In fact, tip your mother too.

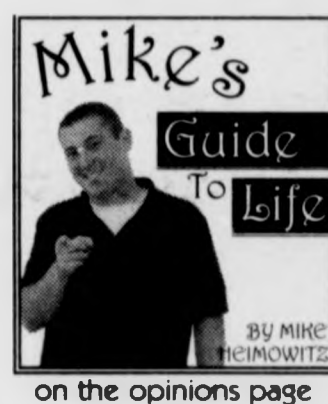
**In reality, the jobs we hold now are mostly a passing phase, a lesson in humility that reminds us why we're in school ...**

In reality, the jobs we hold now are mostly a passing phase, a lesson in humility that reminds us why we're in school: to reach the world beyond, a world where we're paid to do what we

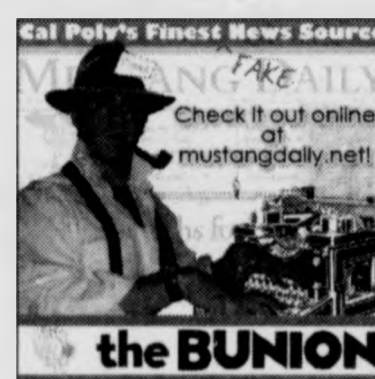
love, or at least paid to be the one giving the orders.

But in the meantime, take your 75 cents and go buy yourself a gumball. It's something to celebrate!

**Coming tomorrow ...**



on the opinions page



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## 'Museum' skimps on laughs

Christina Choi  
MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

At last, a history lesson that won't make you fall asleep.

Well, sort of. While "A Night at the Museum" isn't nearly as hardcore as the specials you might come across on the History Channel in the early hours of the morning, the film does give its viewers basic facts of the past amid its layers of skimpy comedy. Who would've thought that knowledge of Attila the Hun's interest in sorcery could be so useful?

These tidbits become vital information for the survival of Larry Daley (Ben Stiller, "Meet the Fockers"), the new night watchman at the Museum of Natural History in New York — where at night everything in the museum magically comes to life due to the mysterious power of an ancient Egyptian tablet.

Though his aging predecessors caution that this is no ordinary job, Larry finds out the hard way, and his first night is predictably wrought with surprises. After he's attacked by miniature Indians, ridiculed by a mentally impaired statue from Easter Island and barely escapes an encounter with Attila the Hun, Larry is rescued by a gallant Theodore Roosevelt (Robin Williams, "Man of the Year").

Teddy explains that it's his duty to keep the peace at all costs and prevent any museum exhibits from escaping and turning into dust when the sun rises. Understandably taken aback, Larry grits his teeth and decides to keep the job to avoid looking like a loser to his adoring son, Nicky (Jake Cherry, "Friends

With Money").

The film's plotline is nothing spectacular, but it revives the concept behind "Toy Story" and successfully ushers it into real life. The result is a seamless work of video editing that makes a 3-inch-tall cowboy version of Owen Wilson ("Wedding Crashers") interact both believably and effortlessly with Stiller, his seemingly permanent cinematic sidekick.

Wilson's laid-back quirkiness steals the film's best moments, especially in his dealings with fellow miniature Steve Coogan ("Coffee and Cigarettes"), a Roman gladiator with a British accent.

Williams is also cast well as a Ruff Ryder-era Roosevelt who's secretly in love with Sacagawea (OK, so the film shouldn't be taken too literally).

Despite his stock dialogue on bravery, Teddy cultivates Larry's heroic side and shows him that he's capable of being a great man — not that this lesson is half as memorable as the joking reminder that Williams is just an exhibit when his wax body is accidentally chopped in half.

Despite fancy visual effects and a few chuckles, "Night" is in sore need of sharp one-liners. Instead it relies heavily on Stiller's reputation as a funnymen to carry scenes. This only works to a certain extent, but without any quick humor written into the role, the physical antics grow stale.

Nonetheless, a Hollywood comedy with any educational value is so rare today that "Night at the Museum" might be worth taking your little sibling to.

And with its light-hearted tone and guaranteed happy ending, it might have just enough spunk for adults as well.

MOVIE  
REVIEW



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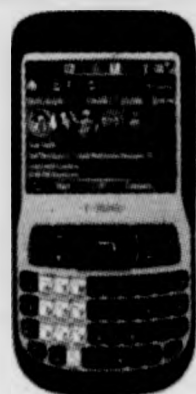
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## Fighting to keep the arts alive

**Zach Kun Lin Han**  
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

It is telling that when Larry Summers was still president of Harvard, he proposed for the inclusion of economics and the sciences into Harvard's canonical curriculum. Undeniably, as one of America's most accomplished economists, he might have harbored partisan interests in advocating such a revamp. But his conviction and resolve speak volumes of how important the disciplines have become.

America has always prided itself on the strength of its liberal arts education — the harbinger for individualism, the impetus for character, the beacon for collective unity. Mainly, its emphasis across interdisciplinary breadths — the arts, the social sciences, as well as the sciences — aimed to inculcate a sense of academic inquiry and holistic responsibility, and successfully so.

Yet there have been complaints about the failure of the liberal arts education to progress simultaneously with the changing times and priorities.

Certain segments of the American society have been unwilling victims of the globalization wave. Because of the increasing interconnectivity among continents, jobs have been off-shored and outsourced to countries where equally talented labor could be obtained at much lower prices. Since companies have a duty to maximize profits and protect shareholder interests rather than appealing to nationalistic senti-

ments, it is an objective, if not an obligation, for Americans to remain competitive.

It is perhaps essential thus for us to examine the historical development of liberal arts.

Arguably the first practitioners of liberal arts, the Greeks believed that thoughtful eloquence and loquacious clarity were man's ultimate virtues, and hence championed the art of debate, often at the cost of righteousness. As societal genteel and cultural mannerisms refined, liberal arts increasingly emphasized the social graces, changing its focus to cater to this purpose. Then, as industrial and technological needs burgeoned, exclusive training of individuals in certain disciplines became the agenda.

The fundamental lesson is instructive — it reflected the evolving system and attitude to accommodate societies' progress.

Today's world revolves around scientific discoveries and economic cognizance. This imposes a requirement for one to be well-informed. Part of the possible solution is Summer's proposed reform. These areas of study are essential — even for the uninitiated, growth, inflation and government action, such as fiscal discipline or protectionism, are core issues that directly affect one's financial health and wages.

To be fair, such an implementation is not without its critics. It entails sacrifice, aggravated by opponents supporting different areas of

see Arts, page 8



The place your parents warned you about...

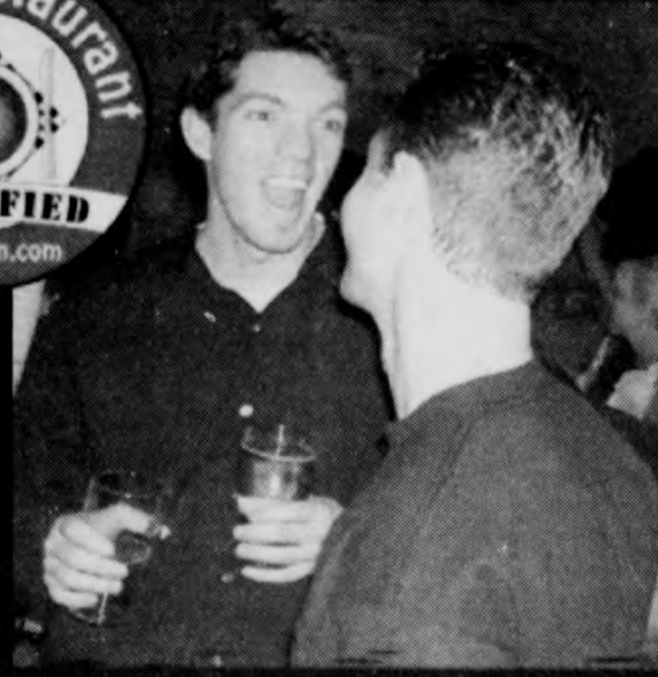


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# 'Godfather of Soul' James Brown laid to rest in style

Andrew Sargus Klein

MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

It's difficult to summarize the life and accomplishments of James Brown in a manner that could actually do the man and his music justice. There simply is too much to mention, too much to devote whole paragraphs, chapters and books to. His music is irrevocably entrenched in American culture, from the all-night diner's jukebox to hip-hop sampling. Along with Little Richard, Sam Cooke and Ray Charles, Brown was part of an enormous transition in popular music, combining gospel traditions with R&B, mixing in rock beats and crossing racial barriers.

Dubbed "the hardest working man in show business" for a reason, Brown brought his fire to every record he produced, creating grooves that were more than the sum of drums ...

tion — no one can resist his beats, much less the desire to throw out an "uh!" or "good God!" when the mood strikes.

"I Don't Want Nobody To Give Me Nothing (Open Up The Door, I'll Get It Myself)" and "Goodbye My Love, Pts. 1 & 2," which can both be found on "Foundations of Funk — A Brand New Bag: 1964-1969," are two iconic tracks that defy the constraints of popular music. The former is a political attack entirely removed from the poetry of Dylan or the straight-ahead rock of the Rolling Stones. The latter is one of the greatest funk ballads of all time. Brown made the groove — the funk-

laced, sweating groove — his own creation, and the fact that he could deliver such a product again and again is staggering.

Brown isn't leaving this world anytime soon. Few artists have been or will be able to burn hotter than he did or play as active a role in the evolution of music as he still does. His influence will live for as long as there is music to be listened to, performed and written.



COURTESY PHOTO

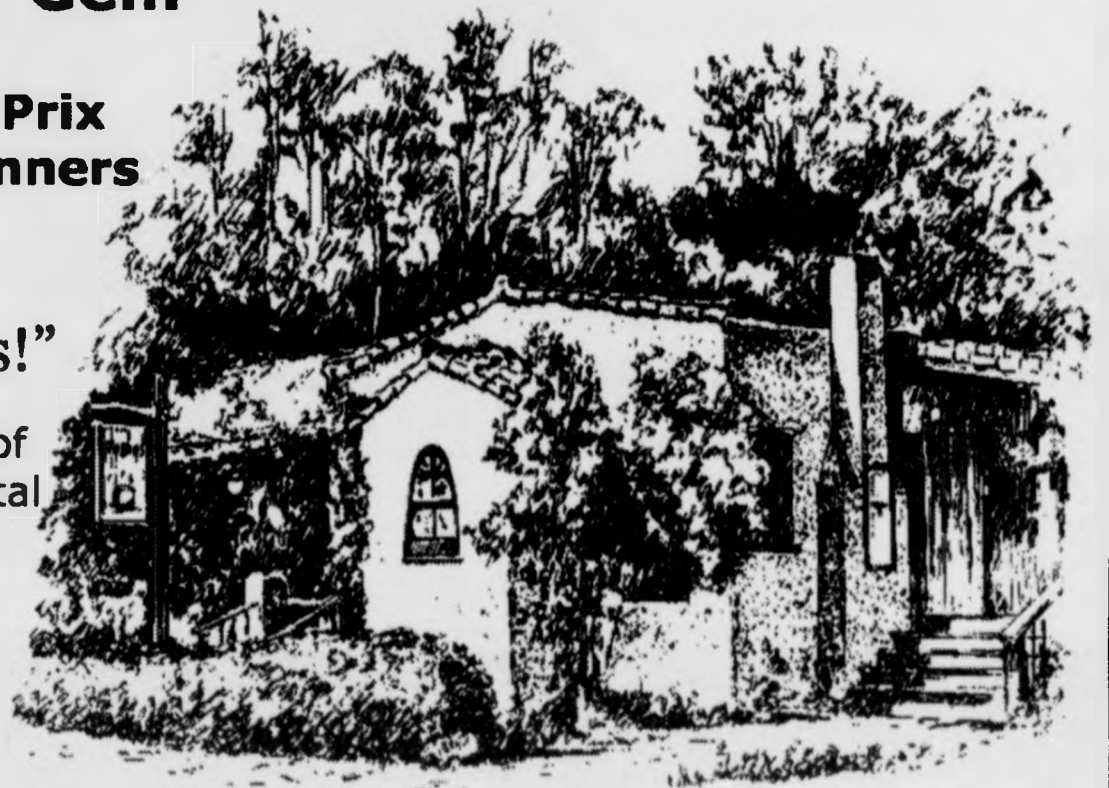
James Brown, 73, died Dec. 25 of congestive heart failure. The "Godfather of Soul," was best known for his Top 20 R&B Hits such as "I Got You (I Feel Good)" and "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag."

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## Arts

*continued from page 6*  
scholarship.

For example, proponents of history and mythology single out the necessity of understanding past atrocities to guiding our future actions. Meanwhile, philosophers cite its importance in empowering us to deliberate circumspectly about imperatives and to confront our principal fallibilities. Then, there is math, literature, divinity and so on.

Where does this argument leave us?

As Fareed Zakaria, the noted Newsweek columnist, once remarked, the past 10 years have

witnessed faster changes than the past 200 years. Hence, important as the visual arts or lyrical poetics are to our holistic well-being, the new realm of development is one engineered by technological advancements and economic thought. Jobs today reward the capacity to actively create and innovate, primarily in the financial services, tech companies and health care industries.

While monetary gains are no substitute for character, America could best heed lessons of the past. The ostensible leader in the 20th century, Oxford no longer commands that lofty distinction. Because while she persisted in the arts and letters, her American counterparts were embracing research.



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# New bill to require Calif. girls to take HPV vaccine

**If passed, California would be the first state to mandate the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, effective July 2008.**

**Lizeth Cazares**  
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

In 2005, an estimated 9,700 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States. In an effort to fight what legislators and health officials have called a life-threatening disease, a new bill was introduced in California that would require all girls to be vaccinated against the Human Papilloma Virus prior to entering the sixth grade.

Assembly Bill 16, presented in early December, aims to reduce the amount of cervical cancer cases by making California the first state to mandate an HPV vaccine. The bill is currently in its early stages, but if passed, AB 16 would become effective in July 2008.

State Rep. Sally Lieber introduced the bill and said AB 16 is a good opportunity to reduce serious medical problems related to HPV.

"This is the first vaccine produced that prevents a form of cancer," she said. "About 80 percent of women will contract HPV by the time they're 50, and while only 10 percent will develop cervical cancer, HPV can lead to other health problems like cervical dysplasia. This bill provides an opportunity to prevent both cervical cancer and HPV."

If passed, AB 16 would add the HPV vaccine to California's immunization requirements, which currently includes measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, rubella, whooping cough, diphtheria, hepatitis B, chicken pox and haemophilus influenzae type B.

Additionally, AB 16 would be the only required immunization in the state to target a specific gender and the only one aimed at a virus contracted solely by genital contact.

While the vaccine now costs approximately \$360, Lieber said she has talked to different agencies that would provide the vaccine at low to no cost.

She said ultimately the price for making this vaccine mandatory is

less than the \$1.6 billion a year the United States pays in medical costs to fight cervical cancer.

"We currently pay the price for it in our community where we provide help for those suffering from cancer," Lieber said. "It's more expensive when it's out in the community and when we have to deal with those costs and the cost in terms of suffering."

Some groups, such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America, also support the new bill.

Kathryn McLearn, director of PPFA's public affairs for the Sacramento Sierra region, said Planned Parenthood is very excited about the vaccine in general because the group feels that it's critical to "protecting women's health and safety."

"The vaccine prevents against two strains that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases," she said. "It works to prevent a very preventable form of cancer."

She said the organization strongly supports including the vaccine in the Vaccines for Children program.

"The quickest path to eradicating cervical cancer is widespread vaccination," she said. "The most successful immunization programs, such as those for small pox or polio, are those that require (vaccination)."

McLearn added that by including the vaccine in the Vaccines for Children program, health providers might be able to offer the vaccine to lower income families.

"At approximately \$360, it is the most expensive vaccine ever," she said. "We must make it mandatory so that low income people can have access to it as well, since requiring the vaccine will ensure coverage by private health insurers and government vaccination programs."

However, some groups are opposed to making this vaccine mandatory.

Focus on the Family, an Evangelical Ministry that works with protecting families around the county, is against AB 16.

Linda Klepaki, the sexual health analyst for the organization, said while the group highly supports the vaccine itself, the organization thinks that parents should make the decision about whether a child should be vaccinated.

"We are very pro this vaccine and think it's a historical step for the prevention of cervical cancer," she said. "But we are also very for parents' rights. Unlike previous vaccines, this is used to prevent a sexually transmitted infection."

She said since the disease is not acquired at a school, then it should not become mandatory for sixth-graders.

"We know that hepatitis B is a transmitted disease and it can be transferred through the blood

**At approximately \$360, it is the most expensive vaccine ever.**

— Kathryn McLearn

Director of PPFA's public affairs for the Sacramento region

stream," she said. "Children don't contract the disease just by being in the classroom."

If AB 16 is passed, it would allow for families who do not want their child to be vaccinated the ability to waive the vaccine — similar to other mandatory vaccines.

While there is debate on

whether the vaccine should be mandatory, many agree that this is an important vaccination.

"The best way to protect our daughters from risk is to make sure the HPV vaccine is widely available and administered to all women at risk of infection," McLearn said.



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## COMMENTARY

## Fearless freshmen

Natalie Debruin  
THE POST (OHIO U.)

New Year's Day has passed, but don't think it's too late to add one more New Year's resolution to your list. "Do one thing every day that scares you," said Eleanor Roosevelt. Perhaps she meant doing something like turning the lights off and watching "Saw" every night before you go to bed, but I don't really think so. That may scare, but I doubt it would be very beneficial. More likely, she's encouraged us to make sure that our fears don't keep us in a box.

I come from a one-stoplight town. My high school class graduated 93 students, and the nearest fast food restaurant was a 20-minute drive from my home. You could say I experienced a little culture shock coming to Ohio University. Athens may be considered a small town, but it's bigger than the one from which I came.

There are lots of opportunities here that were never really an option before. I'd never taken a Pilates class or gone out dancing on a Saturday night.

Who am I kidding? Before I came to Athens, I'd never gone to the theater to see an R-rated film.

I guess you could say I'm a little sheltered.

The point here is that I've had (and still have) ample opportunity to try something new. Whether rational fear or irrational fear, ranging from a few butterflies to sheer panic, that fear comes whenever I do something for the first time.

Fear is a natural reaction; it's actually a good thing in many situations. That "fight or flight" response is a biological instinct to assist us in times of danger, like if we're about to be mauled by a bear, or if we're considering eating leftover EasyMac that's been in the refrigerator for a month. It helps to keep us from doing things that are harmful or self-destructive.

The trick is to be able to overcome fear when it's keeping you from really experiencing life. Safety isn't necessarily a bad thing (always wear your seat belts, kids), but failure isn't always as bad as we think it is, either.

Am I afraid of looking stupid? Am I afraid of feeling out of place? These things are easily overcome and soon forgotten. These fears shouldn't be allowed to rule our lives. There is so much real fear in the world. Life is too short to spend being afraid of the little things. Trust me, humiliation is a little thing.

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see Resolution, page 11

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COMMENTARY

# New Year's resolution: Make multiple impressions

Carolyn Gerecht

THE PITTS NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

First impressions are formed within the first three seconds two strangers meet. So it's no surprise that those impressions are usually dead wrong.

Yet somehow, we still manage to use our first impressions of each other as a basis for how we interact from there on out — whom we call, whom we like and dislike. An awkward comment from a classmate's mouth in an early conversation can cause you to think of her as an awkward girl forever.

Despite the fact that we've all been fooled by our first impressions at some point or another, they still have value in our world. This makes no sense at all.

Embroidered on a pillow or printed onto a Dixie cup, one can find the expression, "First impressions are the most lasting" — a gentle reminder to always make a strong one. Even my psychology textbook informs me that I am more likely to pay attention to what I first learn about a person than anything else I discover down the road.

The mere fact that, if we could, we'd all make excellent first impressions all the time is a dangerous sign pointing to their importance. But first impressions should not play such a big role in our opinions.

Of course, we can't help but form them. It's human nature to judge, to stereotype and to generalize, which is usually how errors occur. Thus, the battle instead comes in pushing those thoughts to the back burner. We must give a real chance to unbiased second and third and maybe even fourth impressions.

Think of every time you ran into that cutie from bio while wearing your sweatpants and holding a bag of doughnuts at the 7-11. Every time you were tired and didn't contribute more to a conversation than a weak smile. Every time you said something personal and a stranger was standing behind you.

Think of how much less troublesome life could be if you didn't have to feel quite so embarrassed in any of those situations. If first impressions weren't so crucial to the way we relate, we would be able to forgive each other much more easily for our slip-ups and

bad days.

And the rope swings both ways. If we can accept the unreliability of first impressions, we won't be disappointed so often when a new friend does something unexpected or backs out of an adventure.

Of course, exceptions and catches to this newfound sense of openness arise. There are times when we simply have to go by first impressions. Job interviews, first dates and meeting the parents are all good examples; in those situations, it's a given that you'd better look and act your best.

Nobody can expect your potential boss or in-laws or whomever to call back a second or third time without good reason.

There are also times where we absolutely should trust our first impressions. When we don't pick up the phone after that creepy guy from a weird party three weeks ago calls, that's not "placing too much faith in first impressions." That's trusting your gut. It's a must.

But otherwise, we really have no right to expect accuracy from judgments formed so early on. If judgments are formed, so be it — but unless something goes terribly wrong, everyone deserves at least two or three clean slates.

And this is as much because of someone else's bad day or nervousness as your own. Just as others change or blunder, we do too. What initially irked you about a person may now send you into fits of giggles. And especially in an environment as diverse and drastically different as college, it's only fair to allow for both parties to modify their likes and dislikes.

No, I cannot possibly demand that we all forget first impressions entirely, if that's even an option. As human beings, we need a basis for figuring out who we want to hang out with or study with or bring home for Thanksgiving.

We can, however, work to remember that our first impressions are probably going to be mistaken.

The best way to handle that is to give as much importance to the impressions to come. Currently, forming relationships is a matter of creating a first impression and then working to maintain or overcome it. There's no reason for that — we should be able to create first impressions, create second impressions, and so on. Everyone deserves that.

Don't you?

## Resolution

continued from page 10

even if you decide it's disgusting and pour most of it down the drain before tossing the cup into the recycling bin. These are the little victories of the spirit, and the little things make all the difference.

This is my goal. I will try new things. I may be afraid, but it's not going to stop me. Of course, my will to succeed in this may be driven partly by the fear of missing my deadline, but that's another story. Here's where you come in: Tell me that to try.

Do you have an interesting student organization, an unusual hobby or an offbeat favorite restaurant? I'd love to try them, so send me an e-mail.

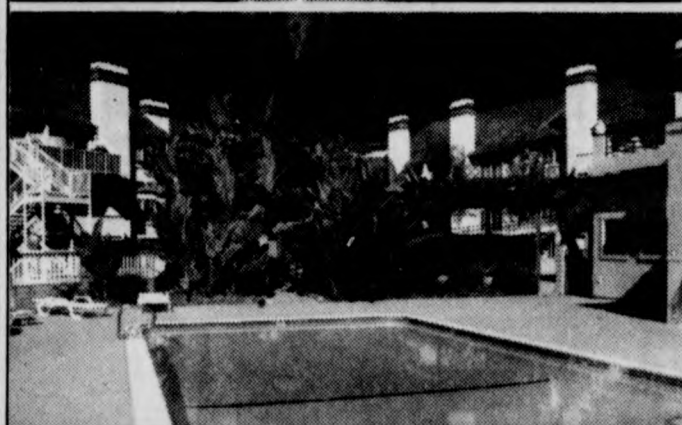
Oh, and one other thing: Don't forget to try something new yourself. That's what it's all about. Or maybe the hokey-pokey is what it's all about. Either way, my going out on a limb to write these words won't mean much if the reader gains nothing from it.

Here's to 2007; may it be full of vanquished fears, both yours and mine.

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# Seasonal Affective Disorder more than just the winter blues

**Mandi Smith**  
CHIPS (LUTHER COLLEGE)

Winter has many people feeling depressed, but it may be more serious than that. Between 6 and 8 percent of the general population suffer from a severe form of the winter blues called Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD.

"SAD can be a disabling condition ... (resulting in a) lack of motivation," said Dr. Joseph Breitenstein, an associate professor of psychology at Luther College and a licensed psychologist. "Depression in general is often viewed as the 'common cold' of mental disorders."

It is not uncommon for many people to feel a sense of the winter blues as the cold weather and short days set in. However, SAD and the winter blues are not the same condition. Although the difference is only a matter of a degree, SAD debilitates a life while the winter blues simply seems to dampen it.

"Everyone gets (the winter blues) but it shouldn't make one dysfunctional," Breitenstein said.

SAD has many symptoms that go beyond a simple feeling of depression. These symptoms include a lack of motivation, excessive sleeping, headaches, a craving for sweets, weight gain, anxiety, social withdrawal, loss of interest in activities previously enjoyed and difficulty concentrating and processing information. These symptoms will, as a result, affect work and relationships.

The cause of SAD is currently unknown. However, it is fairly certain that the condition has a multifactorial explanation.

"(SAD) may be caused by a combination of biological, psychological and social factors ... each person is going to be different," Breitenstein said. "Students are going through major developments identity and intimacy. It is a time to mature."

Some other possibilities of the cause of SAD are genetics, age and the body's chemical makeup. There are two chemicals in the brain that may lead to the development of SAD and depression.

Serotonin, a neurotransmitter, is said to be affected by the amount of sunlight received by the body. If the body isn't receiving enough sunlight,

serotonin levels drop, possibly causing depression.

"Serotonin levels in the brain are strongly implicated in many cases," Breitenstein said.

The other chemical is melatonin.

According to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn: "Some scientists have theorized that melatonin, a

sleep-related hormone that's also linked to depression, might be the cause. Production of melatonin increases during the long nights of winter."

Low levels of serotonin and/or high levels of melatonin may be the culprits of SAD.

Treatment for SAD is usually successful.

"It's important that people be taught skills rather than just given pills — but that's not to say that medication isn't important," Breitenstein said.

Counseling and medication in the form of mood stabilizers are generally most effective for the treatment of SAD when used collectively. Sun lamps may also be effective by exposing the body to light, thus increasing the body's level of serotonin.

Those suffering from SAD will generally have their symptoms fade as winter turns to spring and the warm sunshine comes back. It is at this time that many people are able to come off their medication and enjoy their lives once again.

In the meantime, and even in active times of SAD, the herb known as St. John's Wort may be beneficial by taking 900 milligrams per day.

Although there are skeptics who disagree with SAD being an actual illness, Breitenstein isn't one of them.

"(SAD) is a definite diagnosable disorder," he said. "It can be a serious disorder and shouldn't be stigmatized any more than we would someone with diabetes. It's a disorder they didn't choose to have."

SAD is a common disorder and affects millions of people. If help is necessary, don't be afraid to ask for it.

"I would urge (those who may be suffering from SAD and depression) to talk to health care providers," Breitenstein said.

More information can be found at <http://mayoclinic.com>.

## **Symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD):**

- Lack of motivation
- Excessive sleeping
- Headaches
- Craving for sweets
- Weight gain
- Anxiety
- Social withdrawal
- Less interest in activities

**“It can be a serious disorder and shouldn't be stigmatized any more than we would someone with diabetes.”**

— Joseph Breitenstein  
associate professor of psychology at Luther College



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## THE BIZARRE

# Calf with two faces born at Va. farm

RURAL RETREAT, Va. (AP) — One of the newest arrivals at Kirk Heldreth's dairy farm is drawing crowds. A calf with two faces was born Dec. 27 at Heldreth Dairy Farm, and word has spread in southwest Virginia as residents flock to his farm.

The animal is normal from its tail until its unusually large head. The calf breathes out of two noses and

has two tongues, which move independently, according to Heldreth. There appears to be a single socket containing two eyes where the heads split.

"It's the craziest thing I've ever seen," the dairyman said.

During the calf's birth, Heldreth said he first thought there were two calves.

The calf has two lower jaws, but only one mouth. Heldreth feeds her through a tube, and acknowledges he probably can't maintain that feeding schedule for long.

The calf was the product of arti-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A calf with two faces is photographed at Kirk Heldreth's dairy farm in Rural Retreat, Va. The calf, which was born Dec. 27, 2006, breathes out of two noses and has two tongues, which move independently, according to Heldreth.

cial insemination, which was supposed to create a genetically superior specimen. "Genetically, this is one of my better calves," he said.

Bob James, a professor in the dairy science department at Virginia Tech and Heldreth's former teacher, said such births are unusual.

"In my 25 years, I've seen it maybe two or three times, but it's pretty rare," he said.

James said the abnormality could be caused by a developmental

problem or a genetic quirk.

According to MedicineNet.com, the condition is called diprosopus. It happens when twins start to form and don't completely separate. In most cases, the twins are completely fused with one set of limbs, but part or all the face is duplicated.

Heldreth said the calf doesn't appear to have any other physical ailments or complications.

"It's as healthy as can be," he said.

Heldreth expects many more people will be curious enough to stop by.

"I'll just have to tie the dogs extra tight," he said.

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## Google

continued from page 13

popular programs, pleasing political enemies and helping smooth his path to re-election.

Schwarzenegger's good fortune, it turns out, did not end there.

As Google's stock topped \$500 in 2006, company executives continued to sell hundreds of thousands of shares each month, according to an analysis of insider transaction data provided to The Associated Press by research firm Thomson Financial.

The analysis makes clear that California will reap big benefits from a rebounded tech economy for the budget year that will begin in July. The revenue even might allow Schwarzenegger to avoid painful cuts to a budget that ballooned 11 percent last year, to \$131.4 billion.

According to the state's latest figures, capital gains and stock options

accounted for nearly 14 cents of every tax dollar collected in California in the fiscal year that ended last summer. Similar numbers are expected this year. That's nearly double the percentage two years ago, following the dot-com bust.

Next year the total income taxes Google executives will have paid California since the company went public are on pace to top \$1 billion, or about 1 percent of the state's entire general fund budget.

While the company is helping push capital gains revenue above historical averages, state officials say they are closely monitoring the income.

For comparison, during the heady days of the Internet boom in 2000, capital gains and stock options accounted for a whopping 40 percent of all personal income in California and a quarter of the state's tax revenue.

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# Advertisers exploit secret codes in video games

Rachel Konrad  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Crouched in military fatigues, you peer through night-vision goggles and brandish a semiautomatic gun as you hunt down terrorists who've overtaken Las Vegas.

Incongruously, while patrolling a neon-decorated side street in the video game "Rainbow Six Vegas," you spot a jar of body wash. You spray the container with bullets, and voila! A 60-second video of whimsical bloopers pops up, and

billboard advertisements of scantily clad women hawk Unilever Corp.'s Axe shower gel: "Score with Axe."

Welcome to the new world of video gaming, where software companies are becoming more imaginative in wringing money from gamers.

In-game advertising has been going on for years as marketers try to reach people who've largely stopped watching television.

But beyond running crass advertisements on billboards written into the gaming landscape, many

game developers now accept product placements for milk, DVDs and other wares, embedding them deep into the game's software codes. You'd need the type of secret tips and tricks long circulated for unlocking special powers and other bonuses.

Other companies are charging real-world dollars for the privilege of gaining magical powers and better equipment for virtual characters, leading to complaints the companies are exploiting gamers who already pay \$60 or more for

the most popular titles.

Veterans of the \$7 billion U.S. video game market defend the corporate co-option of the techniques once solely the realm of techies: If Hollywood has been employing product placement and other unconventional marketing tricks for years, why not the game industry?

The standard advertisements aren't waning. But gaming executives say the newer, unusual pitches are more effective: They can be funny and tap into many gamers' desire to explore the darkest nooks and crannies of a game and discover tricks they can boast to friends.

"Purist gamers see this development as negative, and it can ruin the game for someone," said Peer

Schneider, vice president of content publishing at IGN Entertainment. "But our kids don't see it as negative. They see it as an unexpected thing in the game."

For more than two decades, programmers have tucked silly surprises into the recesses of computer games — from the 1980 Atari 2600 game "Adventure" to the current hit "Scarface: The World Is Yours."

In many games, players who enter the top-secret "cheat code" could become invisible, get unlimited ammunition or play in an all-powerful God mode. Or they'd play for hours until discovering brightly decorated circles or balls — known as Easter eggs — that unlocked bonus points, monster-slaying swords, extra lives or infinite health.

Only recently have game companies found ways to profit from these quirks. Software developers are now coordinating with marketing executives — and with Madison Avenue advertising gurus — almost from the game's conception.

"Developer teams have always said, 'We have these codes if you want to use them,' but only in the last two years did the marketing teams significantly incorporate them into our strategy," said Jill Steinberg, director of promotions for San Francisco-based Ubisoft. "The goal of the promotions is to get buzz."

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## COMMENTARY

# BCS good, bad for smaller football programs like Fiesta Bowl champ Boise State

Andrew Bagnato  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Say what you will about the BCS, and many have said plenty.

But if it wasn't for the Bowl Championship Series, most football fans wouldn't know Boise State from Boys Town.

The ninth-ranked Broncos would never have been given a crack at No. 7 Oklahoma on a stage as grand as the Fiesta Bowl. They'd have run all those gadget plays against Memphis, or someone like it, in the YourNameHere Bowl in Shreveport.

Ian Johnson would still be a 5-foot-11 tailback nobody wanted. Well, nobody except a certain cheerleading captain.

Instead, he's the giddy kid who proposed to his girlfriend on national television moments after scoring the game-winning points.

On WFAN radio in New York Tuesday morning, they interrupted their regularly scheduled rants on pro sports to rave about ... Boise State?

That's the power of the BCS. It creates storylines even if it sometimes leaves out the happy ending.

But the BCS also did what no one else could this year: it stopped the Broncos cold.

The BCS gave the Broncos their moment on the national stage and then quickly ushered them out the side door.

It was more than a little symbolic that the Broncos had to check out of their resort hotel here Tuesday to make room for the Florida Gators, who arrived to begin preparations for their title game showdown with Ohio State.

Thanks for coming, Broncos. Have a safe trip home!

The Broncos' performance made the BCS folk look like geniuses. It also gave them another reason to do everything they can to prevent a play-off.

In a play-off, the power conferences would have to deal with Boise State every year — or Utah, Fresno State and Brigham Young.

And the more exposure and money those programs receive, the bigger and badder they'll become.

Once upon a time, there was a women's college in Tallahassee, Fla. It decided to admit men and fielded its first football team in 1947, losing all five of its games.

That team eventually became the fearsome Florida State Seminoles.

Boise State started playing Division

I-A football in 1996. Eleven years later, it won the Fiesta Bowl.

The BCS doesn't want to see Boise State every year. But it can put up with the occasional upset, if that's what Boise State's victory was. Think about this: the Broncos beat five bowl-bound teams during the regular season. Those teams went 4-1 in the postseason. The Sooners beat six bowl-bound teams. They went 2-4.

The BCS honchos went into full self-congratulation mode Tuesday for showing the foresight to invite the Broncos. Don't be fooled. Boise State and its ilk gained admission only under threat of federal legislation and lawsuits.

But it was nice of the Broncos not to embarrass themselves when they showed up. They used the right fork at team dinners and accepted the Fiesta Bowl's lavish hospitality with grace.

Then they smoked the Sooners to the delight of millions.

Now the Broncos have returned to the land of potatoes, but they've left a lot of us wanting more.

More trickery: More undersized and unrecruited players. More of rookie coach Chris Petersen, looking like a man who had a peek at the cards after the dealer shuffled.

Petersen was caught smiling on the sideline Monday night. Doesn't he realize how serious this is supposed to be?

Bless him if he doesn't.

Petersen wouldn't bite when reporters asked if he planned to declare his team the uncrowned national champions.

"Hey, we don't worry about that," Petersen said. "We just go and play who they tell us to play. The pollsters vote how they want to vote. We're just happy to control what we can control."

It wouldn't take an NFL-style play-off to squeeze one last bit of fun out of Boise State.

If there were a "plus-one" championship game after the bowls, as has long been discussed, the Broncos might be in line for a shot at the Ohio State-Florida winner.

Maybe that would be a bad idea. The Broncos might be overmatched. Jim Tressel's well-drilled Buckeyes wouldn't fall for that amazing Statue of Liberty play, would they?

Thanks to the BCS, we'll never know.

This is as good as it gets for Boise State — for now, and maybe forever.

## Cal's Lynch to enter NFL draft

The Pac-10 offensive player of the year rushed for 1,356 yards and 11 TDs as a junior.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Running back Marshawn Lynch will skip his senior season at California to enter the NFL draft.

Lynch was the Pac-10's offensive player of the year after rushing for a conference-best 1,356 yards and 11 touchdowns, leading Cal (10-3) to a league co-championship and a victory over Texas A&M in the Holiday Bowl with 111 yards and two scores.

As a sophomore in 2005, Lynch became the fourth Cal tailback in four years to rush for 1,000 yards under coach Jeff Tedford. The Oakland native rushed for 3,230 yards and 29 touchdowns in his three seasons at Cal.

"The opportunity to play in the NFL is something that I have always dreamed of," Lynch said. "Right now, it is just hitting me that my dreams are going to have the chance to come true."

Lynch is just the second Cal player to enter the draft early in Tedford's five seasons.



# Poly's Shotwell wins Buchanan Award

**The senior football player is the Mustangs' third straight defensive player of the year in Division I-AA.**

**Tristan Aird**  
MUSTANG DAILY

One day after taking home the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in Division I-AA, Cal Poly senior linebacker Kyle Shotwell was just as relieved as he was excited.

"I was kind of relieved because I wasn't the guy who broke the tradition at Cal Poly," Shotwell said Dec. 15 in a phone interview. "I wanted to keep the streak alive."

Shotwell is the third straight Cal Poly football player to win the award. He led the division in tackles for loss (21) while posting 122 total tackles, seven sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. The Mustangs (7-4) finished 10th in the division in fewest points allowed per game (14.7), fifth in total yards allowed per game (248.3) and third in least passing yards given up (1,463).

Shotwell was presented the award at a banquet Dec. 14 in Chattanooga, Tenn., on the eve of the I-AA title game, in which defending champion Appalachian State defeated Massachusetts 28-17. He followed in the footsteps of Cal Poly linebacker Jordan Beck (2004) and defensive end Chris Gocong (2005), who won the two previous awards.

Conducted in November, balloting for the award had the input of 112 media members and sports information directors. With 23 first-place and 19 second-place votes and 275 total points, Shotwell edged James Madison linebacker Akeem Jordan (23, 17, 258).

"Going into the games, the Buchanan is not something you think about," Shotwell said. "Going into the season, I thought if I can play my best, I'd have a shot. After the San Diego State game, it kind of made me realize that it catapulted me into the front-runner for this thing. Toward the end of the season, you start thinking about it a little more."

The 6-foot-1, 235-pound Shotwell led the Mustangs to a 16-14 win at I-AA San Diego State on Oct. 28. In the Mustangs' third win ever over a I-AA program, Shotwell had 12 tackles (11 solo, five for loss), four

sacks and one forced fumble.

In 2005, a year in which Cal Poly went 9-4 and reached the I-AA playoffs for the first time in program history, Shotwell set a school record with 158 tackles. He also had five sacks and two interceptions that season.

Gocong won the award for a 2005 campaign that included a division-leading 23.5 sacks. Beck won the award in 2004 for a season in which he racked up 135 tackles, 5.5 sacks, four interceptions and six forced fumbles.

"It's crazy to think we were on the field at the same time," Shotwell said of the 2004 season. "If you look back at that year, we had an amazing defense. We didn't know exactly how good we were back then. That was a pretty exciting time to be playing defense at Cal Poly."

Cal Poly has reached new heights since head coach Rich Ellerson's arrival in 2001. His double-eagle flex defensive scheme, which looks like everything from a 3-4 to a 5-2 during the course of a game, has helped the Mustangs become a mainstay in the national rankings. Cal Poly was ranked as high as No. 3 in I-AA each of the past two years and closed this season ranked 15th.

Shotwell said what might make him most proud is the reaction he received Dec. 14 from coaches from around the nation.

"It's great for Cal Poly football the way people respect our team and the players on our team," Shotwell said. "Nationally, it's incredible meeting the coaches from UMass and Appalachian State who said, 'I love watching you and your teammates. Keep doing what you guys are doing.' People are watching us and not just the schools we play against. That makes me proud because coach 'E' has instilled that in us. We've bought into it and people are seeing it nationally."

Created in 1995 by The Sports Network, the Buchanan Award was named after former Grambling State and Kansas City Chiefs defensive lineman Buck Buchanan, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It has since been won by NFL stars Dexter Coakley (1995-96), Edgerton Hartwell (2000), Rashean Mathis (2002) and Jared Allen (2003).

Both Beck and Gocong were chosen in the third round of the NFL

## KYLE SHOTWELL'S CAREER STATISTICS

	Total Tackles	Sacks	Interceptions
2003	24	1	0
2004	88	4	2
2005	158*	5	2
2006	122	7	0

\* School record

Draft, Beck by the Atlanta Falcons and Gocong by the Philadelphia Eagles. Both suffered season-ending injuries during preseason of their rookie years and wound up on

injured reserve, but Beck has since recovered and had 13 tackles as a second-string linebacker this season.

Shotwell said he hopes to parlay the honor into an NFL career.

"I believe that I am an NFL-caliber player," Shotwell said. "I'm going to have some opportunities. I really think that I deserve that shot and I'll get that shot."

Shotwell's agent, Ryan Tollner, is part of a Rep1 Sports Group whose clients include Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, Washington Redskins quarterback Mark Brunell, Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle Leonard Davis, Oakland Raiders linebacker Kirk Morrison and Beck, among others.

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## Florida feels underrated going into tonight's national title game

Ohio State is favored by at least a touchdown according to most Las Vegas oddsmakers.

Ralph D. Russo  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Florida Gators are feeling unappreciated and they're not happy about it.

There's no doubt the Gators are the underdogs heading into the BCS championship game against top-ranked Ohio State tonight.

The unbeaten Buckeyes have been No. 1 all season and rarely challenged, outscoring opponents by 26 points per game. They've got the Heisman Trophy winner in Troy Smith and a coach in Jim Tressel with a national championship on his resume and a reputation for being as good it gets in big games.

The Gators have an imperfect record, several too-close-for-comfort victories and their only All-American is safety Reggie Nelson.

In Las Vegas, Ohio State is a seven-point favorite.

To hear the Florida Gators tell it, the 'O' and 'H' have already been engraved into the championship trophies.

"Every time you pick up a paper or magazine you see Ohio State, then you see one page of Florida or just the title, Florida Gators," Gators defensive tackle Joe Cohen. "And you know, we fought to get here, too. We want a little credit that we're here. At least acknowledge that we're in the game. I guess Jan. 8 we'll show that we're in the game."

Football players are always looking for an opportunity to feel disrespected. It can be a powerful motivational tool. Just ask Texas, which rode Vince Young's need for redemption to a national title last year. Or the 2002 Buckeyes, who pulled off one of the biggest BCS upsets.

And the Gators really have been on the defensive for months, first trying to prove they deserved to play for the national title, then defending their selection for the big game over Michigan.

Thanks to USC, the Michigan problem went away in the Rose Bowl. Still, the Gators know many skeptics remain.

"The way the talk is we don't deserve to be here really," receiver Dallas Baker said. "We played a lot of Top-25 teams and defensive teams and they're still saying that we don't deserve to be here, so this is an opportunity to prove everyone wrong."

Even back home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., for Christmas, Baker heard the Gators being bad-mouthed. As he walked around the mall, he overheard a couple of kids predict gloom and doom for the Gators.

"A kid didn't even know I was standing there and I heard him tell another little kid — they were probably like in sixth or seventh grade — they were saying 'I can't wait 'til the game to watch Ohio State beat up on Florida,'" Baker said. "I'm like

this is a Florida guy not even giving us an opportunity. He had on a Florida Gator hat but was saying we were going to lose."

Ohio State can relate, at least a little.

The Buckeyes' fifth-year seniors were part of Ohio State's '02 championship team.

Those Buckeyes were unbeaten, but their opponent was a Miami team that had won 34 consecutive games and was looking for its second straight national title.

"Our mind-set was that we wanted to play the best we could. We wanted to shock the world," Ohio State defensive lineman Joel Penton said Thursday. "Miami had some weaknesses."

Not many, but Ohio State exploited them and beat Willis McGahee, Jonathan Vilma, Andre Johnson, Ken Dorsey and the rest of the Hurricanes, 31-24 in double overtime.

Just like the Gators are doing now, the Buckeyes played the no-respect card.

"I remember we got a little flier about a victory party in Miami for when they got back before the game," Penton said. "We did feel slighted. I think it definitely helped."

There's been comparisons made between that Ohio State, Tressel's second, and these Gators under second-year coach Urban Meyer.

"The obvious similarity is that they're in the second year of their building process and that you have a mix of guys that you've just grown to get to know and a mix of guys that you recruited," Tressel said.

Like the current Gators, those Buckeyes were good, not great, offensively. Their approach was very different from the Gators. Ohio State used the power running of freshman Maurice Clarett and some clutch play from quarterback Craig Krenzel to score. Florida's offense has sputtered at times because it lacks an inside running game and appears too reliant on its fast perimeter players such as freshman Percy Harvin, Andre Caldwell and Baker.

Both teams played stingy defense and lots of close games. Half of Ohio State's 14 wins were by seven points or fewer. Half of Florida's victories have been by 10 points or fewer.

The Buckeyes have been careful not to feed Florida's us-against-the-world attitude by throwing nothing but praise at the Gators.

"I don't look at ourselves as a huge favorite," Penton said. "We're looking at (the Gators) on film and they're as good as anybody we've faced."

Besides, how much of an underdog can a team playing for a national championship really be.

"People say we are (the underdog) but we really don't feel like that," defensive tackle Ray McDonald said. "The top two teams in the country are playing. Why should there be an underdog? Why shouldn't it be even?"

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## Even after 14-2 season, Schottenheimer's job status up in air

**When asked recently what his future is with the Chargers, Marty Schottenheimer said, "You're asking the wrong guy."**

**Bernie Wilson**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As his San Diego Chargers rest up for a playoff run they hope will end with the franchise's first Super Bowl victory, it remains to be seen if that's how far coach Marty Schottenheimer needs to advance in order to keep his job.

While Philip Rivers' sore right foot and LaDainian Tomlinson's freshness after a sensational, record-setting season are the main concerns for the Chargers entering the playoffs, Schottenheimer's job status will at the very least be a sideshow.

That's even though no one is saying much about it.

Schottenheimer's relationship with general manager A.J. Smith has been icy for months. It got so rocky after Drew Brees was allowed to leave as a free agent in the offseason that team president Dean Spanos called them into his office on a Saturday and told them to start pulling in the same direction.

That relationship doesn't appear to have thawed much even though the Chargers went an NFL-best 14-2 and wrapped up home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

When the topic of Schottenheimer's future came up Tuesday, the coach, whose contract runs through next season, replied: "You're asking the wrong guy."

Smith isn't tipping his hand on what recommendation he'll make to Spanos once the season ends.

"We make all our decisions at the end of the year," Smith said. "All the coaches, everybody."

The pressure could be on Schottenheimer, who said these Chargers — with nine Pro Bowlers, including league MVP front-runner Tomlinson — are the most-balanced of the 13 teams he's taken to the playoffs.

Although Schottenheimer joined an exclusive club with his 200th regular-season victory Sunday, his playoff record is an unsightly 5-12. He has a five-game losing streak dating to 1993 and his teams have been one-and-done eight times.

Schottenheimer said there haven't been any discussions regarding a contract extension.

"I don't think there should be," said Schottenheimer, who has coached the Chargers to 35 victories and two AFC West titles in the last three seasons. "Absolutely not. We've got work to do. Let's not put the cart in front of the horse."

Schottenheimer was reminded that Smith has extended the contracts of several players, some during the season.

"But they weren't 63 years old," the coach said with a chuckle.

The most either man will say

about their relationship is that it's fine.

Schottenheimer said he hasn't

had any conversations about his job performance with Smith during the last six months.

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## Hybrid technology means faster laptops

May Wong  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Patience may be a virtue, but when it comes to getting faster boot-up times for computers, no one will complain. That's why a new industry alliance is promoting a hybrid technology aimed to speed up the starting process for laptop users.

Five leading hard drive makers have come together to push for a new storage component which incorporates flash memory onto a computer hard drive. The so-called hybrid hard drive also will prolong a laptop's battery life on a single charge, according to the newly formed Hybrid Storage Alliance.

NAND flash is a type of memory commonly used in MP3 players or digital cameras. Unlike hard drives, which store data on spinning disks, flash memory stores data on a microchip. The form of nonvolatile memory retains data even when the appliance is turned off and can access data more quickly than a hard drive.

A laptop with a hybrid hard drive could see up to a 20 percent improvement in the time it takes to boot up and open an application, compared to one without, the alliance said.

The hybrid technology is designed to work hand-in-hand with the advances in Microsoft Corp.'s new operating system Windows Vista, which will become

available to consumers later this month.

Joni Clark, the chairwoman of the alliance, expects hybrid hard drives to appear on higher-end notebook models by the end of the first quarter. Eventually, the technology is expected to become a standard component across all models, she said.

The technology helps to shorten a Vista-based machine's startup time by booting the system straight from the flash memory chip instead of waiting for the system to turn on and start spinning the platters on the hard drive.

If a laptop with a hybrid hard drive is put in hibernation mode, resuming any open applications is likewise a faster process.

Drawing on the flash memory also consumes less power than a hard drive, thus extending a machine's battery life, the alliance said.

The founding members of the alliance are Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., Samsung Electronics Co., Seagate Technology LLC, and Toshiba Corp.

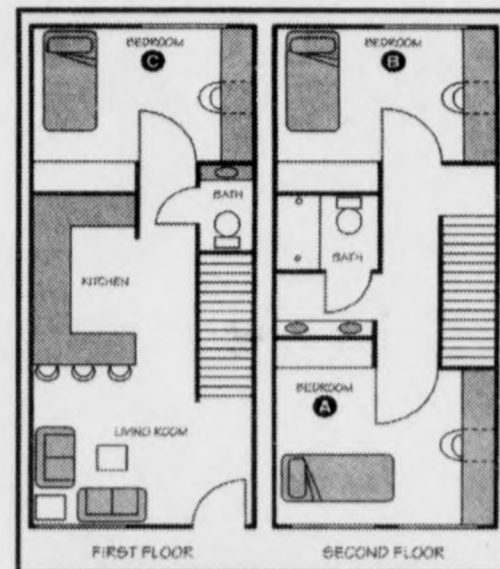
In the high-tech industry, the pairing of the storage technologies is akin to a marriage between two enemies. As the maximum capacity of flash memory has increased in recent years, it repeatedly competes against hard drives to be the keeper of digital files in portable gadgets such as media players, cell phones or cameras.

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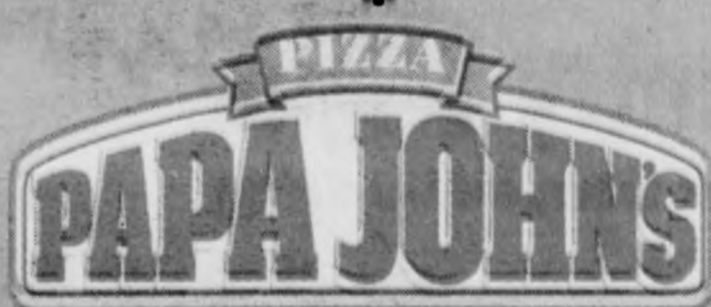
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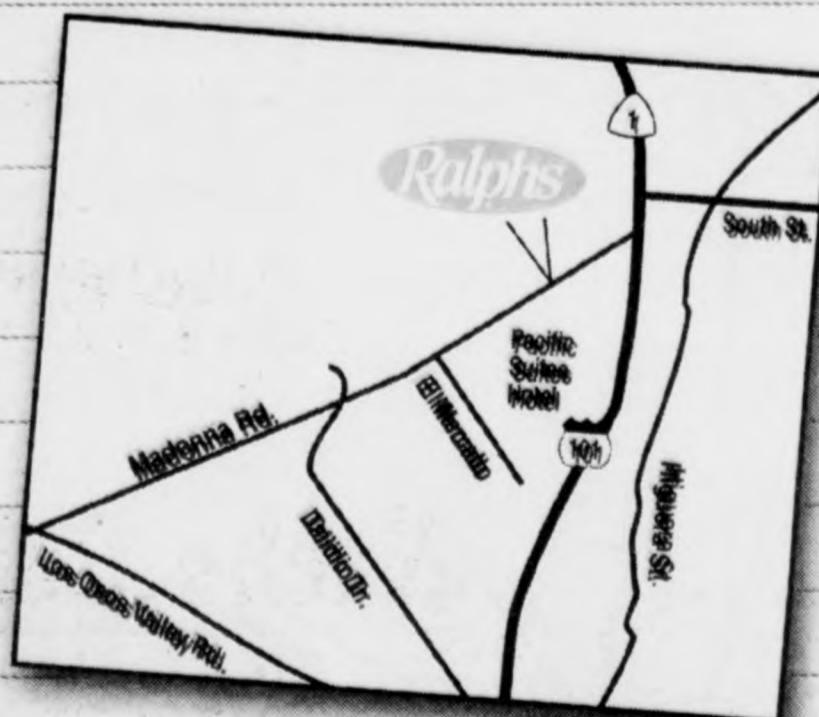
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# MUSTANG DAILY

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006

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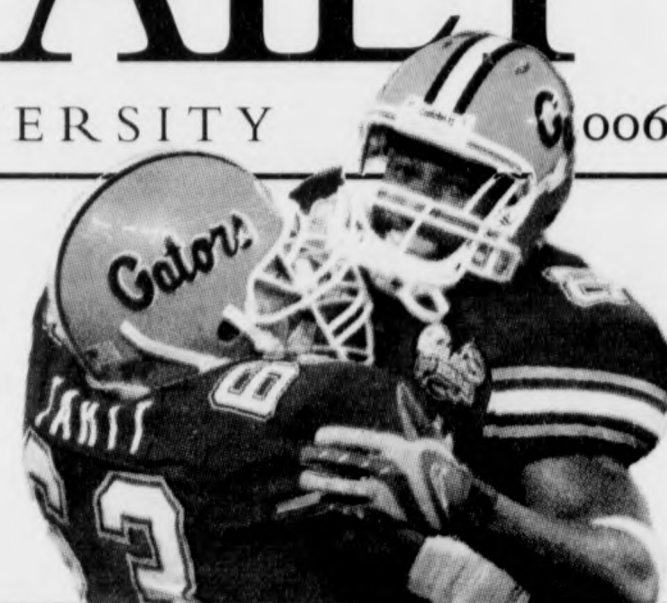


'Children of Men' delivers visually, but loses meaning along the way

IN SPOTLIGHT, 4

Ohio State proves no match for Florida in BCS laughter

IN SPORTS, 8



Volume LXX, Number 62

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

www.mustangdaily.net



## Poly researchers tag and track monarch butterflies

ORVILLE MYERS

Josh Scullen, an intern for the Ventana Wildlife Society, tags a monarch butterfly with a numbered sticker Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006 in Pacific Grove, Calif.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. — California scientists are trying to learn more about the mysterious migrations of monarch butterflies by attaching tiny tags to their wings and tracking their movements.

Researchers have tagged some 26,000 butterflies at their wintering grounds on California's Central Coast since Project Monarch Alert began in 2002.

The research effort — spearheaded by the nonprofit group Ventana Wilderness Society and the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo — is aimed at developing strategies to protect the monarchs' threatened habitat.

The tags include a unique identification number and toll-free phone number so scientists can monitor their trajectory from traditional winter nesting spots in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

Over the past four years, about 130 butterflies have been recovered and rereleased, leading to some important revelations, scientists say.

Researchers have learned that monarch movement in the winter is limited almost exclusively to other nesting sites along the coast. They also found that just a few days of warm and dry weather can trigger a premature mass exodus in January or February.

The research suggests that the monarch population's decline in recent years is likely caused by severe drought conditions at their summer breeding grounds. Researchers had speculated the cause was development at their California wintering grounds.

Biologists say they still need to identify critical breeding areas for western monarchs to help conserve the species.

Several key questions remain unanswered, including where the monarchs breed, how weather influences migration and whether their migration routes differ from year to year.

Shortening days, plunging temperatures and dwindling food supply spur their urge to migrate, but scientists are baffled about how they know how to get to the Pacific Coast and when to move on.

Most don't travel huge distances — usually 50 to 100 miles, with many ending up in areas around Sacramento and the Central Valley.

But some travel hundreds of miles. One butterfly tagged in Monterey County's Andrew Molera State Park was captured alive about 870 miles away in Pueblo, Colo. Researchers had previously believed the Rockies were an impenetrable barrier for monarch migration.

Researchers estimate that more than 1 million monarchs roost at winter nesting grounds from Santa Cruz to Baja California.

In the eastern half of the U.S., an estimated 300 million butterflies travel to wintering sites in Mexico each year.



CHRISTINA CASCI MUSTANG DAILY

Guests at the Embassy Suites on Madonna Road were woken to a fire alarm sounding early Monday morning when a dryer caught fire.

## Laundry fire causes hotel to evacuate guests

Christina Casci

MUSTANG DAILY

A small fire broke out at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Madonna Road early Monday morning, causing the fire alarm and sprinkler system to go off. No one was injured.

"The fire started in the laundry room when a commercial dryer overheated," said Tim Billing, the hotel's general manager.

The San Luis Obispo City Fire Department sent 14 personnel and four fire trucks to the scene at about 1:10 a.m., according to the press release issued by the department.

The firefighters found that the sprinkler system just above the dryer had been activated, which held the fire in check until the firefighters could completely extinguish flames in the dryer, according to the press release.

"Our fire system works on only the space that is on fire," Billing said. "The

see Fire, page 2

## Giant California earthquake of 150 years ago is little remembered

Alicia Chang

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — It's the California earthquake hardly anyone has heard of — strong enough to rip 225 miles of the San Andreas Fault and make rivers run backward, but leaving nothing like the cultural scar inflicted by the San Francisco Quake of 1906.

Tuesday marks the 150th anniversary of the magnitude-7.9 Fort Tejon quake, which was blamed for just two deaths in what was then sparsely populated California.

No museum exhibits or musical tributes will mark the 1857 event, sometimes referred to as the forgotten

quake. There will be no public gatherings or bells tolling to mark the moment the ground split open, as there were for the 1906 centennial of the San Francisco quake, a catastrophe that left 3,000 people dead and reduced much of the city to ash and rubble.

"It'll never have the same hold on the public's imagination as the 1906 earthquake," said Sean Malis, an interpreter at Fort Tejon State Historic Park, a 70-mile drive high into mountains north of Los Angeles. "It'll continue to be a footnote in history."

Still, scientists do not want to pass up the opportunity to warn the public about the threat the fault poses and how to prepare for it. They say a

repeat of Fort Tejon in the now-populous Inland Empire region east of Los Angeles — one of the fastest-growing areas in Southern California — could kill thousands of people and cause of tens of billions of dollars in damage.

To drive home the point, the U.S. Geological Survey and other groups on Tuesday are kicking off a yearlong campaign to warn people to prepare for the Big One. The education campaign will culminate in 2008 with what officials say will be the biggest earthquake disaster drill in U.S. history.

"We're not trying to scare people," said Tom Jordan, who heads the

see Earthquake, page 2



This 1960s aerial photo, provided by United States Geological Survey, shows a section of the San Andreas Fault in the Carrizo Plain area of California. The magnitude-7.9 Fort Tejon earthquake in 1857 caused a horizontal shift of about 30 feet on this stretch of the fault. The red arrows indicate the opposing movements.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Northwestern U. researchers: 'Smart' clothing helps disabled with mobility

Shana Sager

DAILY NORTHWESTERN (NORTHWESTERN U.)

EVANSTON, Ill. — New technology could enable quadriplegics to control the speed, direction and velocity of wheelchairs through their clothing, according to research from Northwestern University's Sensory Motor Performance Program.

Researchers from Northwestern University and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago have developed a sensor-laden shirt that monitors how individual patients move best.

Currently, devices available to quadriplegics operate by translating the patient's shoulder, neck and head movements into specific commands.

With popular devices like the sip/puff switch, patients can make their wheelchairs move by blowing into a straw. The strength of the sip or puff of air determines the wheelchair's movement.

Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, professor of physiology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and a researcher on the project, said new sensing garments differ from previous devices because they take advantage of "machine learning."

Because motor skills can change daily as a disorder progresses, "most disabilities do not remain stable," Mussa-Ivaldi said.

"One cannot assume that the operator of a wheelchair is fixed," he said.

The new shirt contains 52 sensors developed at the University of Pisa. These sensors emit electric signals that are adjusted by the movement of the body.

Zachary Danziger, a McCormick graduate student and a researcher at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, said that as a body part moves in the shirt, the material above that area is stretched. This allows electricity to flow through that part of the garment. He said that while researchers are working on ways to eliminate unexpected shirt movements, the technology is promising.

"With all other mechanisms, you have to learn the chair," Danziger said. "The software that drives the shirt, however, will be able to learn the subject."

The custom shirt, which is still in the early stages of development, is tailor-made for each patient based on his or her size. Individuals begin by moving naturally so the device can select movements of which the person is capable.

Later, patients participate in a virtual-reality environment that allows the patient to practice and perfect their movements in a safe environment.

Mussa-Ivaldi works with patients suffering from spinal cord injuries. The shirt, therefore, is made for patients without brain damage who understand how they can use their bodies to control a wheelchair. He said that in the future, he hopes to expand such technology to patients with brain injuries, as well.

## Fire

continued from page 1

doors to the public area were closed off immediately when the alarm sounded and the sprinklers went off."

The damage was minimal, Billing said. "There was a little water on the floor that I mopped up when I got here, but that was pretty easy."

Though Billing stated the damage was small, the fire department estimated \$10,000 worth of damage in the press release.

"The guests were evacuated and nobody was hurt," he said. "They were outside for about half an hour, but that is about normal for a small incident like this."

According to the press release, the firefighters were at the hotel for about an hour. The guests were allowed back into the building shortly thereafter.

"The only problem with what happened is that it can challenge the guests' pleasure," Billing said. "However, most of the time, guests are very understanding."

Usually, guests just want to make sure they will be all right, he added. "As long as they are safe, they don't have too many complaints — even with false alarms."

Billing said that the hotel makes sure that the guests are as comfortable as possible no matter what the circumstances.

"We offer them complimentary breakfast and evening snacks, so they are pretty well taken care of and understand when things happen that are out of our control," he added.

Billing said that the guests' safety is the Embassy Suite's No. 1 priority.

"Everything ended fine because all the guests were safe and not too much damage was done, just a few small parts will fix the appliance and the other one is working fine," Billing said. "That what fire alarms are for, right?"

## Lacrosse player sues Duke

THE CHRONICLE (DUKE)

DURHAM, N.C. — A senior from the 2006 men's lacrosse team filed a civil suit Thursday against his former university, alleging a professor discriminated against him because he was on the team.

The lawsuit filed in Durham County Court says visiting political science professor Kim Curtis originally failed Kyle Dowd, Trinity '06, because he was a member of the team that became embroiled in a national controversy after an exotic dancer accused several men of assaulting her at an off-campus party.

According to court papers, Dowd had received C's on his work to that point of the semester — work that would have counted for 50 percent of the overall grade. After the March 13 party, Dowd received F's for his class participation and final assignment, causing Curtis to issue a failing grade for the course.

The University ultimately allowed Dowd to graduate, counting extra transfer credits from Johns Hopkins, which Dowd had attended for two years. Over the summer,

Duke changed the grade from an F to a D, citing a "calculation error." Had his original two grades been averaged with the two failing grades, it would have resulted in a D.

Because of the circumstances, however, the lawsuit asks for the grade to be changed from a D to a "P" for "passing." It also asks for \$60,000 in damages.

Dowd's younger brother was one of four recruits who chose to commit elsewhere while Duke's program was suspended last spring. He is now at Georgetown.

Curtis could not be reached for comment Friday. Messages left at her home and at the number provided by the Department of Political Science were not returned.

Curtis was one of 88 professors who signed the controversial ad in an edition of The Chronicle last spring entitled "What Does a Social Disaster Sound Like?"

Duke spokesman John Burness said the University's lawyers were reviewing the lawsuit and the school would not have further comment as it lets the legal process play out.

## Earthquake

continued from page 1

Southern California Earthquake Center. "We want to make sure that people are constantly reminded about the possibility of a much larger earthquake."

California is prone to earthquakes because it straddles two massive plates that make up Earth's crust. Quakes occur when the plates grind past each other along the 800-mile-long San Andreas fault and its offshoot faults.

While scientists cannot predict when the next quake will strike on the San Andreas, they say the southern segment that runs from the city of San Bernardino, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, to near the Mexican border is the most likely to break, since it has been building up stress for the longest time. It hasn't popped in three centuries.

According to some estimates, there is a 30 percent to 70 percent chance a magnitude 7.5 to 7.8 quake would rupture the southern San Andreas within the next

30 years.

"It's really dangerous," said seismologist Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey. "It could be any day."

The Fort Tejon quake hit on the morning of Jan. 9, 1857, breaking a 225-mile middle portion of the San Andreas from Parkfield, northwest of Los Angeles, to San Bernardino.

The ground shifted up to 30 feet in places. Rivers were reported to have run backward or been thrown out of their banks. The Army's lonely Fort Tejon was hit hard — two buildings were left uninhabitable and three others were badly damaged.

One woman was killed when an adobe house collapsed on her. The death toll has historically also included a man who died of a heart attack in a Los Angeles plaza.

While 11 people who survived the magnitude-7.8 San Francisco quake were on hand for last year's remembrances, memories of the Fort Tejon quake live only in history books.



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2				6	9	4		3
	3	7	2			8		
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## Briefs

### State

**PISMO BEACH (AP)** — The Pismo Promenade project, started eight years ago to link the Pismo Beach Pier and Grover Beach with a boardwalk, is nearly complete.

Work on the final stage of a Pismo Beach boardwalk that will span 800 feet north of the pier to Main Street begins this week.

State and federal grants were used to help pay for the project, but the city needs about \$1.5 million to complete the final 800-foot span.

**CORDELIA (AP)** — A civilian jumbo jet flew to Los Angeles a little bit lighter Sunday when pieces of the plane crashed down in a residential neighborhood after taking off from Travis Air Force Base.

Authorities began receiving phone calls shortly after the Boeing 747 took off from the Fairfield base around noon.

"As it was flying away, people saw something fall off the plane and reported it," said Lt. Lindsey Hahn, a spokeswoman for the base.

**SACRAMENTO (AP)** — New Lt. Gov. John Garamendi and re-elected schools chief Jack O'Connell were sworn in Sunday, the first of several high-profile California politicians to take oaths of office.

On Monday, Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kelly is scheduled to swear in Jerry Brown as attorney general at San Francisco City Hall. Brown — who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nominations for president in 1976, 1980, and 1992 — was governor of California from 1975 to 1983. He spent the last eight years as mayor of Oakland.

### National

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Van Halen made a "jump" into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday along with Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, R.E.M., the Ronettes and Patti Smith.

A panel of 600 industry experts selected the five artists to be inducted at the annual ceremony, to be held March 12 in New York.

Van Halen was the 1980s hard rock quartet led by guitarist Eddie Van Halen, outrageous lead vocalist David Lee Roth, and later rocker Sammy Hagar, that put out hits such as "Jump" and "Dreams."

**BEVERLY, Ohio (AP)** — An explosion killed one person and injured about a dozen others Monday at a coal-burning power plant in southeastern Ohio, utility officials said.

The blast occurred as workers were unloading hydrogen gas used as a coolant for steam generators at the Muskingum River plant, but it was not clear what exploded, said Melissa McHenry, a spokeswoman for American Electric Power, based in Columbus.

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Police shut down 10 blocks of businesses in the heart of downtown early Monday after dozens of birds were found dead in the streets, but officials said preliminary tests showed no dangerous chemicals in the air. As many as 60 dead pigeons, sparrows and grackles were found overnight along Congress Avenue, a main route through downtown. No human injuries or illnesses were reported.

### International

**MINSK, Belarus (AP)** — Russian oil exports to Europe via neighboring Belarus halted Monday as a bitter trade dispute between Moscow and Minsk spilled over into several countries including Germany and Poland.

EU energy chief Andris Piebalgs said the situation posed "no immediate risk" to energy supplies in the European Union, but that he was seeking an "urgent and detailed explanation" of the cuts from authorities in Belarus and Russia.

The impact of a short-term stoppage is likely to be minimal, as refineries maintain strategic oil stocks.

**LONDON (AP)** — The British inquest into Princess Diana's death in a 1997 car crash in Paris resumed Monday with a plea from her sons that conclusions be reached quickly. "It is their desire that the inquest should not only be open, fair and transparent but that it should move swiftly to a conclusion," according to a letter from Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, private secretary to the princes, which was read at the opening session.

**DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)** — David Ervine, a one-time Protestant militant who became one of Northern Ireland's most articulate and forward-thinking politicians, died Monday after suffering a heart attack, according to colleagues and a Belfast hospital. He was 53.

Ervine, who was imprisoned for six years in the 1970s for his activities in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, was the leading figure in the UVF's legal Progressive Unionist Party.

## Schwarzenegger calls for centrist approach at inauguration

Timothy Jue

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

**DAVIS** — Touting a new era of bipartisan politics for California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in on Friday before an audience of 3,000 invited guests at Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium in a splashy Hollywood-produced inauguration ceremony that featured big-name politicians and celebrities.

The governor, who was injured in a Dec. 23 skiing accident in Idaho that left him with a broken right leg, appeared on crutches halfway through the ceremony to take the oath of office and deliver an inauguration speech that pushed a centrist approach toward governing the state in his new term, incorporating pragmatic ideas from both liberals and conservatives.

"It is time we combined the best of both ideologies into a new creative center," the governor said. "This is a dynamic center that is not held captive by either the left or the right or the past."

Citing growing numbers of independent voters seeking a middle-ground between Democratic and Republican values, Schwarzenegger said he would practice "post-partisanship" — governing from the political center — that would cater to centrist voters and promote trust in the political system.

His message was considerably different from his actions of more than one year ago, waging political battles with labor unions and calling a special election in November 2005 that saw the failure of all his propositions. The partisan approach pleased fellow conservatives but alienated the Democratic-controlled state legislature, whom at one point Schwarzenegger labeled "girly men."

The governor's address Friday was far more reconciliatory, calling the approach "wrong" and the special election a "failure."

"Like Paul on the road to Damascus, I had an experience that opened my eyes," he said. "I saw that people, not just in California but across the nation, were hungry for a new kind of politics, a politics that looks beyond old labels, the old ways, the old arguments."

Even former political foes who Schwarzenegger targeted in his promise to reform Sacramento politics were pleased with the centrist approach, pointing to the governor's

strategy of continued bipartisan cooperation that put past differences aside.

"He's doing a great job," said former California Gov. Gray Davis, the man whom Schwarzenegger ousted in the 2003 recall election. "He hired my people, he's taken many of my ideas, he's doing what I tried to do, and I'm happy to sit back and admire him."

Political pundits believed that Friday's glitzy inauguration ceremony was a show of bipartisanship in itself. A mixed crowd of invitees from both political sides filled the auditorium's seats, and liberal Democrat Willie Brown, the former San Francisco mayor and longtime California Assembly Speaker who is often considered a thorn in the state's Republican Party's side, emceed the event.

Brown said he agreed with the notion that he was chosen to represent bipartisanship, but added that allegiances to political parties for him and Schwarzenegger were still significant.

"He would never do anything to compromise my Democratic relationship, and I would never do anything to compromise his Republican relationships," he said. "That's the nature of our relationship."

Yet political watchers are keeping a close eye on the capital this week, looking for Schwarzenegger's "post-partisanship" on such divisive issues as health care, prison reform and redistricting. He is expected to discuss them in his annual State of the State address Tuesday evening, and the governor will present the state budget Wednesday.

"We've got to keep down on the same path because it's a path of progress and prosperity for California," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles). "This governor did a great job at outlining the future of our state and our place in the world."

Like many, Nunez, considered to be one of Schwarzenegger's closest allies in the legislature, embraced the governor's moving to the middle and appealing to mainstream voters in the state.

"Maybe it's going to upset 10 percent of people on the right, it may upset 10 percent of people on the left," said actor Tom Arnold, who attended the ceremony along with fellow actor Rob Lowe. "There will be 80 percent of people in the middle who will agree."

## Natural gas-like odor permeates parts of New York City, officials say no major gas leaks

Karen Matthews  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — Authorities were investigating the source of a mysterious gas-like odor Monday that wafted over Manhattan and parts of New Jersey and led to some building evacuations and mass transit disruptions.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said there was no indication that the air was unsafe to breathe. Department of Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke said there was no sign of terrorism.

"It may just be an unpleasant smell," Bloomberg said. "Our suggestion is that people should do their best to ventilate areas, open their windows or turn on any fans until this gas passes."

The Fire Department began getting calls about the odor around 9 a.m., said spokesman Tim Hinchey. The Port Authority of New York

and New Jersey temporarily suspended some of its PATH commuter train service between New Jersey and Manhattan as a precaution.

People reported the smell from the northern tip of Manhattan down to Greenwich Village and across the Hudson River to New Jersey.

There was a small natural gas leak in Greenwich Village, but it wouldn't have been enough to account for the pervasive odor, Bloomberg said. He said the smell may have resulted from a leak of the chemical mercaptan, which is added to natural gas to produce its easily recognizable odor. By itself, natural gas is odorless.

Utility crews from Consolidated Edison were investigating, but they had found no abnormal changes in the gas transmission system, said spokesman Chris Olert. "If there was a big leak, we would see a

change in the gas flow," he said.

Some office buildings and apartment buildings were evacuated as a precaution.

"The smell was very strong. It was very scary," said Yolanda Van Gemd, an administrator at ASA, a business school that was evacuated near the Empire State Building.

In August, seven people were treated at hospitals after a gaseous smell in the boroughs of Queens and Staten Island.

While New Yorkers worried about the gas smell Monday morning, a large part of downtown Austin, Texas, was shut down after the discovery of dozens of dead birds near the state Capitol. Crews in hazardous-materials suits searched a 10-block area and collected about 60 dead pigeons, sparrows and grackles for testing, but preliminary air-quality tests showed no dangerous chemicals, officials said.

# SICK?

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May health be with you

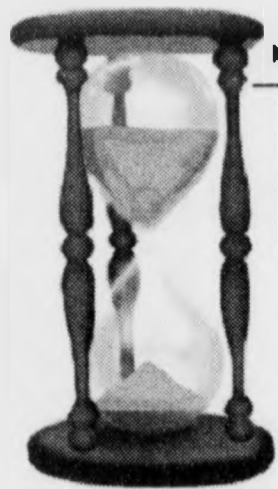
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## Mustang Daily TIME CAPSULE

January 9

- 1848 First commercial bank in San Francisco established.
- 1989 "Pat Sajak Show" premieres on CBS.
- 1997 Heart attack sends Frank Sinatra back to hospital.
- 1998 Decapitated head of Danish Little Mermaid statue is returned.

# 20 years later means a whole new world

Ryan Chartrand  
MUSTANG DAILY

"Children of Men" is a film in which its premise alone is enough to keep you talking for hours. When it comes to actually executing that premise, however, is it enough to deliver it solely through a restless visual experience?



Director Alfonso Cuarón ("Y Tu Mama Tambien") believes it is, and his latest visually enthralling sci-fi film doused in delightful pessimism could prove it. Loosely based on the novel "The Children of Men," by British writer P.D. James, and sadly not the sequel to "Junior" (aka Arnold Schwarzenegger's experimentation with pregnancy), "Children of Men" takes a grim look into the future where the world isn't filled with merciless robots, but something far more devastating.

It's a world where women are infertile and the youngest child is 18 years old. It's a world where every country has become a dystopia and civil wars erupt daily. It's a world where merely the sound of a baby crying can halt an army of men in its tracks. It's the premise directors with a love for imagery would die to have.

The year is 2027 and the only country barely holding itself together is England (what do you expect from a British writer?). Clive Owen ("Inside Man," "Closer") plays a former activist looking for hope, for a life where chance doesn't rule and having the power of choice is actually significant.

Ironically by chance, however, he finds his reawakening; a miraculously pregnant woman who he agrees to help transport to a group looking for an infertility cure. The woman is an illegal immigrant, however, which in 2027 is apparently much like being Jewish in 1942. Fearing what England would do to the woman and her child, Owen tries to keep her hidden until their journey becomes filled with as much thrilling action as "Saving Private Ryan" but about as much point as "Just



COURTESY PHOTO

"Children of Men," which is loosely based on the novel "The Children of Men," was directed by Alfonso Cuarón.

My Luck."

Although Cuarón had plenty of time in the film's nearly two-hour runtime to further develop the premise, he used most of it for relentlessly intense cinematic sequences and long, continuous

shots intended to place you in England's dystopia.

Through the use of his uncomfortably moving handheld camera technique, every scene is brought to life with over-the-shoulder

see Men, page 5

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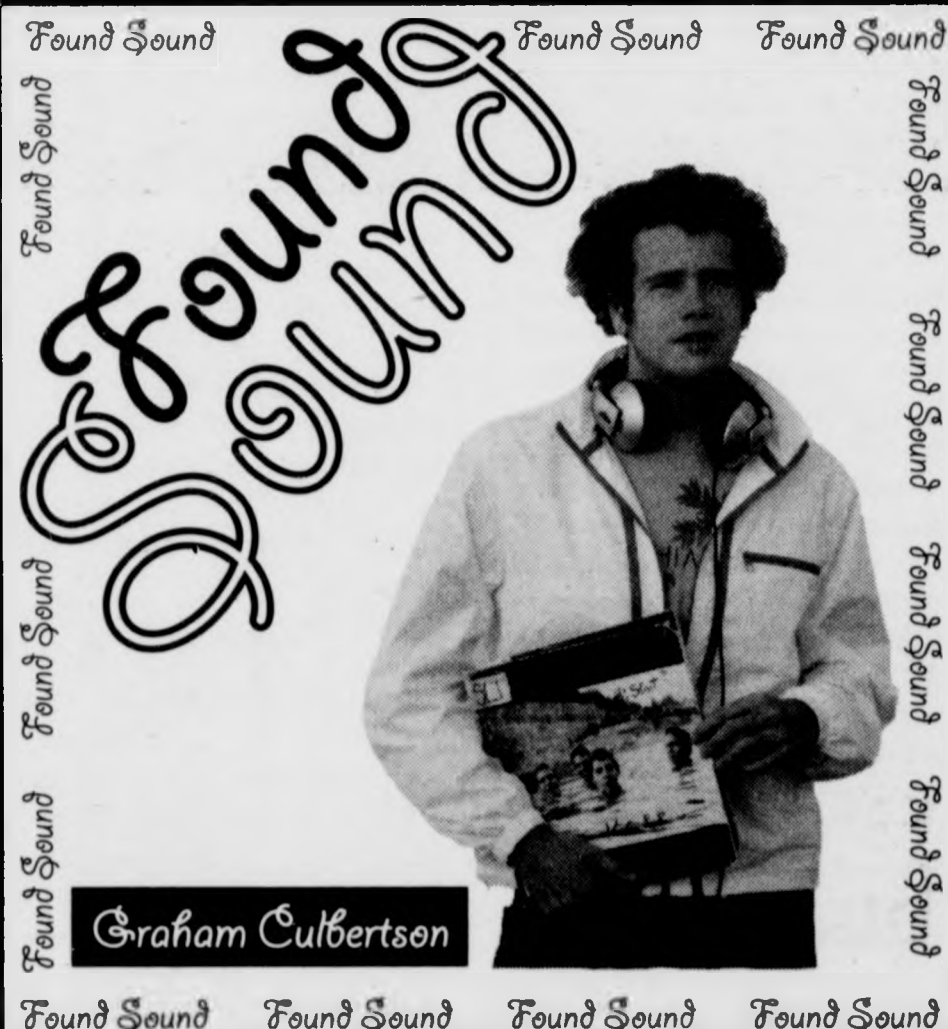
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## Starting the year off right

Last Saturday brought Boy's Night Out which meant a noise rock show at the Steynberg Gallery. Strangely enough, the crowd was rather decently sized as Indian Jewelry headlined the show coming off of an extensive tour. Additionally surprising was that this was one of the best shows that I've seen in a while.

Local act Meal opened up the show. Their set was less noisy and more drum-driven than when I've seen them before and overall it turned out much better. The set was followed by the first La Maison show since summer.

People then shook off their earplugs as Indian Jewelry began to set-up the stage. In addition to their regular equipment, red lights and strobes were scattered throughout the equipment, which caused the area to already seem frenetic and disorienting. What followed was a mix of wild tribal drumming, guitar blasts, keyboards and noise. Thinking somewhere along the lines of Animal Collective meets dance party lighting scheme would give you the best idea of this.

The most enthralling part of the performance had to be guitarist/synth player Erika

Thrasher, who switched back and forth with the band's other guitarist. Her time on guitar saw her slamming hard into the instrument while the other members built loud sounds around her. Let's face it: hot girl in a primal band is amazingly hot especially when the music is this enthralling.

The show was definitely a great performance to start the year off with. It has also set the tone. Steynberg Gallery has become the new place for all-ages independent shows as it provides one of the best artistic environments in town. In addition, a good turnout for a winter break show holds promise for an enlarging scene.

Show tip: The F---ing Champs and Citay will be playing at the Steynberg Gallery at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 at the door. I promise you this: it will be loud. So very, very loud. And so very, very wonderful. Freedom will also perform.

In addition, if you are a music fan, you may be interested in becoming a DJ. Applications for KCPR are at the station right now and are due Friday, Jan. 19. The station is in the Graphic Arts building, room 201.

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## Men

continued from page 4

angles much like a video game, but with more realism and in-your-face flare.

Cuaron amazingly piles heaps of action into a single shot that ultimately buries the audience in their chairs and keeps each environment so dynamic. He couldn't have done it, however, without the right cast leading the tense audience through it all.

Owen, the legendary Michael Caine and an array of lesser-known yet talented additions to the cast make each moment frighteningly believable. The acting makes it hard not to notice every minute, subtle detail about each character, but you might be left wondering why you even cared to notice.

Experiencing Cuaron's discomfiting world and masterfully crafted thrill rides might sell the movie alone, but those looking for something more evocative might be disappointed. Arguably the biggest weakness of "Children of Men" is its abrupt ending and forgetting to

revisit points subtly made earlier in the film.

For example, the pregnant woman, fittingly named Kee, doesn't even know the name of the father of the first child born in 18 years. Is this a criticism on our culture and perhaps how sex has returned to being nothing more than an act of reproduction, deeming a child's life meaningless?

What about the excessive placement of the camera on the pitiable illegal immigrants, exaggerated Nazi-like England soldiers or the words "Homeland Security" written everywhere? Is this Cuaron's pessimistic look at America's future?

Thoughts like these are raised, but ultimately never given much meaning or substance. Making statements in nice little packages isn't necessary, but ignoring the lack of depth or point to "Children of Men" isn't as easy as I'd hoped.

The film does make enough points to merit it worthy of seeing, but taking a few extra steps would have been much appreciated. When the director, who also co-wrote the screenplay, didn't even bother to read



COURTESY PHOTO

"Children of Men," which opened Dec. 25, takes a grim look into the future where the world isn't filled with merciless robots, but something far more devastating.

the book the film is based on, it becomes rather apparent why this might be the case.

While "Children of Men" might only be a brilliant example of visual mastery for Alfonso Cuaron to add

to his portfolio, it only shows that a film with a great premise can sometimes be just that.

## Guidebook authors estimate calories burned during sex

Although the authors do not recommend sex as a weight loss plan, it does burn calories and help reduce stress.

Jessica Kerman

DAILY NEWS (BALL STATE U.)

The missionary position, with the man on top, is one of the most popular sex positions for couples to use, but it can become monotonous at times.

To give its readers some spicy inspiration, Nerve.com's staff put together the "Position of the Day Playbook," a guide for couples to use for a little variety in their nighttime play period. Nerve.com is a Web site dedicated to creating a forum to discuss sex issues.

An interesting sex experience for couples can do more than give a little zest to a relationship. From a healthful standpoint, sex can offer some benefits to one's physical and psychological health.

Jeff Clark, professor of physiology and health science, said sex is not a weight loss plan, but it does burn calories and help reduce stress.

"In terms of weight loss, it's pretty limited," he said. "Doing it once a day would reduce people's weight if they don't replace the calories."

When someone has a heart attack or other health problems, doctors tell the patient to wait until he can climb two flights of stairs before he participates in sexual relations again, Clark said.

"That should be a good comparison for the physical activity of sex," he said.

But, according to the writers at Nerve.com, some positions

can involve a lot of calisthenic exercise. John Constantine, advertising and business assistant for Nerve.com, said the staff compared sex positions to activities in a calisthenic exercise book.

They based the calories burned during each sex position on the average weight of a man, 175 pounds, and the average weight of a woman, 125 pounds, as well as a 12-minute duration for each sex act.

"I will tell you right now that some of them are downright impossible," Constantine said. "And I say that from personal experience."

Sam Apple, book editor and director of interactive media for Nerve.com, said the estimates for calories burned are not reliable.

"At a certain point, it's really just guesswork," he said.

Besides burning calories, hormones such as testosterone and estrogen are released when someone has sex. These hormones produce "feel good" emotions in a person, Clark said. Brain chemicals such as serotonin and dopamine are also released and can create feelings of relaxation and happiness.

Chocolate can produce some of the same effects, Clark said.

"But as my brother says, 'Candy is dandy, but sex won't rot your teeth,'" Clark said.

## 'Perfume' a sensory experience

James McDonald

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

Studies suggest that the sense of smell is heavily connected to memory. The scent of freshly cut grass can bring some people back to their childhood. In Tom Tykwer's new movie, "Perfume: The Story of a Murderer," however, smell doesn't just spark memories. Instead, its power leads to lust, deceit and murder.

"Perfume" is a disturbing portrait inspired by Patrick Suskind's novel about an orphan with an unusually keen sense of smell, whose desire for perfection leads him down a murderous path.

Directed by Tom Tykwer of "Run, Lola, Run" fame, the movie tells the story of the obsessive Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, played by Ben Whishaw. More than anything, Jean-Baptiste wants to capture all the beautiful scents that his gifted nose finds.

Along the way, he meets the great

perfumer Giuseppe Baldini, played wonderfully by Dustin Hoffman, and saves Baldini's business from failure through his natural talent at perfume-making.

As the plot unfolds, Jean-Baptiste becomes fascinated with the smells of various beautiful women and strives to collect them all in order to create the ultimate perfume.

It is obviously impossible for the audience to actually smell what is on screen, but Tykwer does an impressive job of immersing the audience in the act: The camera will often become one of the many aromas weaving its way through the streets of Paris.

The sounds, images and emotions connected to the sense are also exaggerated to the point where viewers feel as though they can get a whiff of the same thing. Though at times, the film becomes more like a Calvin Klein commercial, with slow-motion shots of lust-

ful stares and sensual looks.

The power of smell is what ultimately drives Jean-Baptiste to his murderous ways, and Whishaw portrays the anxious desire of Jean-Baptiste and his cold and calculating demeanor well, providing a contrast for his deep-seeded love of beautiful scents.

The film eventually borders on the bizarre, and the final scenes of the movie — which contain some overwhelming and surprising nudity — can only be described as ridiculous.

"Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" gives the audience everything, and perhaps a little too much of it. The beautiful cinematography and excellent sound provide for an amazing sensory experience, though at times Tykwer becomes engrossed in the act of smelling, much like Jean-Baptiste.



### PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Ten Campus Express Club Members Win \$50

Melissa Montecucillo

Ten Cal Poly students and faculty won the \$50 prize from Campus Express Club. Alex A., Amy B., Nichola C., Johnny C., Weiting C., Emily G., Shannon L., Nicolle M., Jason R., and Deanna S. were among the many who added value to their Campus Express Club membership from Sept. 23 to Oct. 31, 2006.

Campus Express Club is Cal Poly's premier value club. You can add value to your PolyCard to purchase anything at Campus Dining's family of restaurants, Pony Prints, or El Corral Bookstore. "I noticed it's much faster to use at the registers especially if you're in a hurry," said staff member Shannon L.

Nicolle M., a third year Business Administration major, joined Campus Express Club because she hates carrying cash while on campus. "I love how easy it is to just whip out my PolyCard to get coffee or a quick lunch. It makes the much needed coffee run when you've only got 3 minutes 'till class so much faster."

Campus Express Club can be used all over campus and adding money is easy. You can call (805) 756-5939 or simply go online at [www.calpolycorporation.org/express](http://www.calpolycorporation.org/express) to add value. And let's not forget about the added bonus of winning money.

"I was such a dork because I never win anything and I called like 3 of my friends, because \$50 is super cool," said Nicolle M. "It's easy, convenient, and you

win free stuff for doing absolutely nothing," said graduate student Emily G. You add money easily by calling (805) 756-5939 or by clicking on the Campus Express Club link at [my.calpoly.edu](http://my.calpoly.edu)

"I was way stoked to hear that I won \$50 'cause I've never won anything before, let alone 50 bones," said Alex A., who was especially excited to hear he had won. "I suggest everyone join Campus Express Club so they can have the chance to become big ballers on campus like me!"

Campus Express Club is holding another drawing among those who add value to their membership during January. There is still time to add value and maybe even win some cash.



## MUSTANG DAILY

"The voice of Cal Poly"

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Mustang Daily

"If you're from a red state, I probably don't like your rap."

# MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

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6

## HUMOR COLUMN

# A man's guide to proper bathroom etiquette

First of all, welcome back from break. Hope it was a good one. You still look good as ever, and sure haven't lost your charm. Glad we got that small talk out of the way, because I want to get straight to this week's topic with, well, the most literal meaning of "potty humor" that I can. I'm not really talking pee pee and poo poo "potty humor," as fun as that is to write, but rather something that is much more high-brow...male bathroom etiquette<sup>1</sup>. While it seems like it might be a straightforward type of thing, guys seem to still, for lack of better words, act crappy in the bathroom.

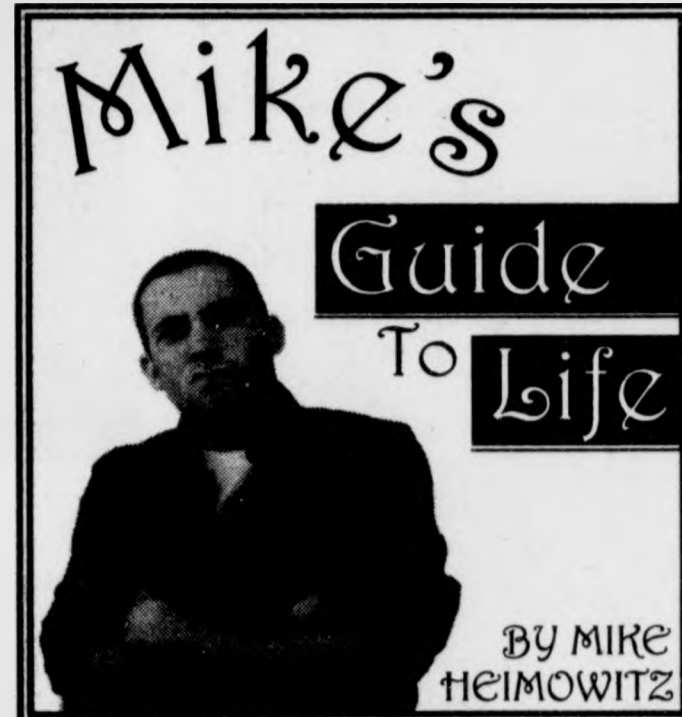
Before we get any further, ladies, I'm sorry, but I really don't know much about your restrooms. You see, it is not quite socially acceptable for me to go in one of your restrooms, so any sort of research would be close to impossible<sup>2</sup>. I'll continue to assume though, like most guys, that your bathrooms are full of things like rose gardens, classy music and beautiful fountains<sup>3</sup>. I mean, why else would you girls go together to wait in such long lines to get in there, and then, once in, want to stay for so long? For now though, the mystery of the women's restroom will be as obscure, as I don't know, who really did let the dogs out<sup>4</sup>?

OK, so back to us dudes. The

first rule I think is pretty straight forward. That of course, is to go to the farthest urinal from the door. The

restroom is for everyone to share my fellow men, and going straight for the first urinal right by the door is not the most inviting to anyone else coming in. I suppose if it is an emergency and the first urinal you can get to is the first one you must use, then so be it, but otherwise, slide to the last one in the row.

Speaking of this whole friendship/being inviting thing in bathrooms, really, there is no reason to make any eye contact or conversation with anyone in there that you don't know. Basically, just go in, do your business, and get the hell out. There are a few exceptions to this rule though. The first is that it is OK to do a head nod if eye contact is absolutely unavoidable. This is the nod from up to down though, and not from down to up. Big difference. If you don't know what I mean, read those motions through and do it yourself for practice. Ah



yes, getting interactive with this week's "Guide to Life."

The second exception to the rule is that the only conversation you can have can be about two things: One is the weather, and the second thing to talk about is how close the current day is to the weekend, and how you can't wait for it to come. For example, you can say, "Man, sure is cold outside" or "Thank God it's Thursday. This has been the longest week." That is it. Nothing more, and saying less is actually still encouraged.

The third rule is that you must get out of there as quickly as possible. Once you're done, there is no reason to really stay in there. Look at yourself in the mir-

ror, make sure your hair looks OK, give a little gun and trigger salute if nobody is watching<sup>5</sup>, and leave. Pretty much, you don't have to stay in there to completely dry off your hands after washing them, because whatever you are wearing is perfectly absorbent enough for that<sup>6</sup>.

There is nothing worse than trying to pee while you feel like you're being watched by other guys in there<sup>7</sup>.

On the subject of bathrooms and urinals, I do have one more request. I'm not sure if anyone is reading this that has any power over this, but can we get urinal dividers in every bathroom? Now, don't get me wrong, this isn't a privacy thing at all because of, um, size or anything<sup>8</sup>, but really, can a man just pee without having to look over his shoulder every few seconds?

Well, this takes me to the end of another "Guide to Life." I hope you learned something as I took you into a world that really is familiar, yet has the distinct rules that must be lived by to avoid any sort of well, poopy, interactions with others.

Mike Heimowitz is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily humor columnist. Give him a nod at [www.mikeheimowitz.com](http://www.mikeheimowitz.com).

<sup>1</sup> See, using the word "etiquette" already makes me sound so much more mature.

<sup>2</sup> And apparently it is "immoral," "disgusting," "unethical," "irresponsible," and "illegal" to put cameras in girls' restrooms. Who would have thought?

<sup>3</sup> The only fountains I ever see are when I try to pee as far from the toilet as I can.

<sup>4</sup> Seriously, who, who who?

<sup>5</sup> Winking at yourself, pointing at yourself, and flexing are also acceptable, unless someone spots you doing it.

<sup>6</sup> And hey, to be honest, nobody really washes their hands after peeing anyways, so don't do it just for show.

<sup>7</sup> OK, Oprah mud wrestling Rosie O'Donnell would be worse, but that most likely never will happen in a male bathroom.

<sup>8</sup> ===== Sorry, I just wanted to put that picture somewhere in this article. And no, that is not the actual size.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# If they don't play by the book, buy the book elsewhere

The start of a new quarter often goes hand in hand with a collective sigh and increase in complaints over book prices. Students check their bags and wait in long lines at El Corral, all the while loathing the fact that they are paying too much. Many students have turned to alternative sellers when buying textbooks to save money.

For example, El Corral sells the textbook "Personality," required for PSY 305, for \$127.75 new and \$96 used. The same book costs \$118.95 at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and \$95.16 if you are a Barnes and Noble member. Half.com, Ebay's textbook center, offers the book for \$58. And at [screwthebookstore.com](http://screwthebookstore.com), a Web site where students can buy and sell their textbooks among students from their university, the book was available used for \$65.

If more students turn to these alternative sources, maybe it would force campus bookstores to decrease

their prices to a more competitive level.

In addition to the inflated prices, El Corral pressures professors to move to the newest version of the textbook by offering students lower buyback rates for the older version. Many professors have stopped reserving textbooks for their classes through El Corral altogether. Instead, they are advising students to shop at Aida's, a local bookstore located on Foothill Boulevard, where students can usually buy their books for much less.

The Mustang Daily urges you to consider these alternative options when selling and shopping for your textbooks this year. Save yourself some money and show the bookstore that students have had enough.

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# Clippers defeat Hornets, 100-90

Los Angeles shot 7 for 16 from 3-point range and 19 for 21 at the free-throw line.

Jeff Latzke  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Cassell scored 31 points, Cuttino Mobley added 20 and the Los Angeles Clippers started to look healthy again in a 100-90 win Monday night against the New Orleans Hornets.

Playing for the first time in three weeks, Cassell scored 10 points during the Clippers' decisive 17-3 fourth-quarter surge, including a 3-

pointer that gave Los Angeles the lead for good at 79-77 with 9:12 to play. He sandwiched another 3-pointer between two jumpers, and Mobley added a jumper for a 91-80 Clippers lead.

Cassell had missed seven games with plantar fasciitis in his left heel before returning against the Hornets, and Mobley hyperextended his left elbow last week at Miami.

They showed no mercy against the Hornets, who are without injured starters Chris Paul (sprained ankle), Peja Stojakovic (back surgery) and David West (right elbow surgery).

Desmond Mason led New Orleans

with 28 points for the second straight game, picking up his first consecutive 20-point games since his final three games with Milwaukee at the end of the 2004-05 season.

It wasn't enough to prevent the Hornets from getting swept on a four-game homestand for the first time since March, when they lost three games in Oklahoma City and one in New Orleans. The last time the Hornets lost four home games in the same city was from Jan. 26 to Feb. 4, 1994 in Charlotte.

Elton Brand added 18 points and 12 rebounds and Tim Thomas scored 12 for the Clippers.

# Raiders interview USC QBs coach Sarkisian

Oakland, which is 15-49 in the last four seasons, is looking to hire a new head coach for the eighth time in the last 13 years.

Josh Dubow  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern California quarterbacks coach Steve Sarkisian became the first candidate on Monday to interview for the Oakland Raiders' head coaching vacancy.

Sarkisian, 32, was Oakland's quarterbacks coach in 2004 in between stints at USC, where he helped tutor Matt Leinart, Carson Palmer and John David Booty.

The Raiders are hoping to complete this year's search for Art Shell's replacement in a shorter time frame than the more than five weeks it took to replace Norv Turner a year ago. Shell was fired last week after setting a franchise record for losses in a 2-14 season.

"I have a great deal of respect for Al Davis and the Oakland Raider organization," Sarkisian told the Los Angeles Daily News before coming to Raiders headquarters for the interview. "It's a proud organization that wants to do whatever it can to be on top."

Other potential candidates for the Raiders' job include defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, offensive coordinator John Shoop, former Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green and former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel.

At USC, Sarkisian coached Heisman Trophy winners in Palmer and Leinart and helped develop Booty into one of the early favorites for the Heisman next season.

Booty threw for 391 yards and four scores in last week's Rose Bowl win over Michigan and will return to the Trojans for his senior season.

Sarkisian left USC for one season to become the Raiders' quarterbacks coach in 2004. Oakland ranked eighth in the NFL in passing that season with 4,019 yards passing.

That's a far cry from this season, when Oakland ranked second-to-last with 2,420 yards passing and posted the fifth-fewest points in a 16-game season with 168.

With much of the NFL's third-ranked defense set to return next season, owner Al Davis will likely turn to an offensive coach. Oakland also has the No. 1 pick in April's draft and could use it on quarterback Brady Quinn of Notre Dame or JaMarcus Russell of LSU, if he decides to turn pro as expected on Wednesday.

While Sarkisian is young, Davis has a history of identifying sharp coaching minds. Davis gave the first professional head coaching jobs to John Madden, Mike Shanahan and Jon Gruden when all three were in their 30s.

Only Madden won the Super Bowl with Oakland; Shanahan did it with Denver, Gruden with Tampa Bay.

Gruden is the only coach to have a winning record with the Raiders since the team returned from Los Angeles in 1995. He was 38-26 in four seasons, taking the team to the postseason twice before leaving to take the Bucs job following the 2001 season.

Gruden left a Super Bowl team in place and his Buccaneers ended up beating Bill Callahan's Raiders the following season for the title. Oakland has won just 15 games since, going through three coaches in the past four seasons.

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

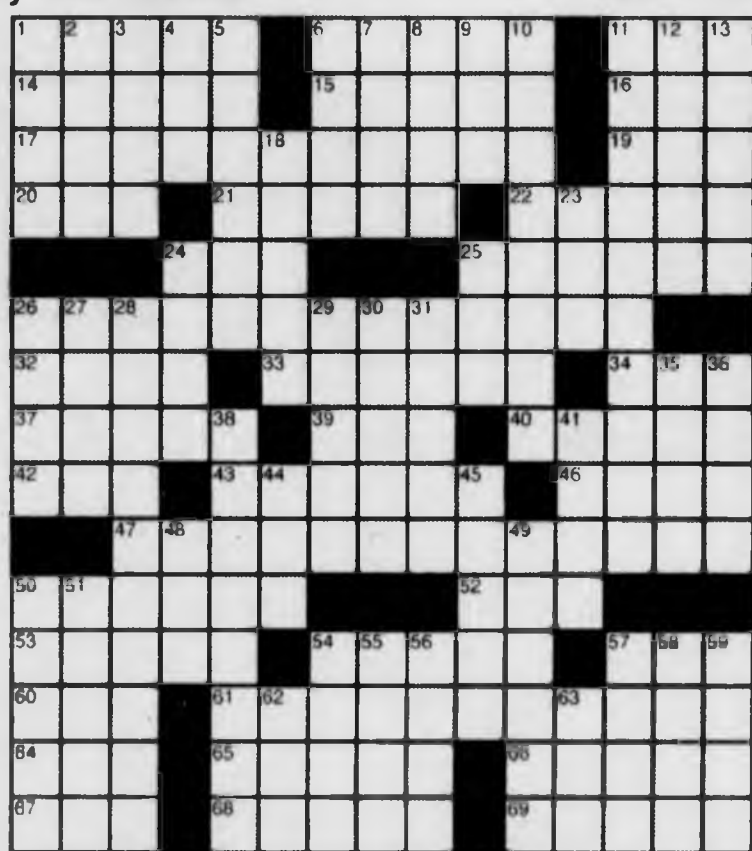
No. 1128

- ACROSS**
- Clear away
  - Japanese beer brand
  - Huck Finn's raftmate
  - Canon competitor
  - Some Poe works
  - \_\_\_, amas, amat
  - "The Joy of Sex" author
  - PC's "brain"
  - Rapper \_\_\_ Def
  - Underdog's win
  - Many a backpacker
  - Chicago-to-D.C. dir.
  - Common prop in close-up magic
  - So-called "King of Vibes"
  - A deadly sin
  - Lecherous goat-men
- DOWN**
- Suffix with novel
  - Canine woe
  - Sale item, maybe; Abbr.
  - Good news for a job applicant
  - Road crew's supply
  - To the rear, at sea
  - Houston hockey player
  - "Lady Sings the Blues" autobiographer
  - Cup holder
  - Realm of 3-Down
  - Start of a toast
  - At full speed
  - Bake sale org.
  - Give a boost to
  - Possible title for this puzzle
  - Caviar
  - Garlicky sauce
  - Like "Twilight Zone" episodes

- What 61-Across contains
- An inert gas
- Some picker-uppers

### DOWN

- Oral, e.g.
- Move, to a Realtor
- Mars, to the Greeks
- Either of two A.L. nines
- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
- PIN takers
- Out of harm's way
- Jillions
- Yon maiden
- "Really?"
- Like many a disabled semi
- Louvre pyramid architect
- Express grief
- Some German autos
- Wall St. opening
- Singer with an Oscar-nominated song in "The Lord of the Rings"
- "All Things Considered" airtel
- Headed out
- "To Live and Die"
- Pile too much on
- Half of Hispaniola



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

- Cornered, after "up"
- A gift of the Magi
- Hospital fluids
- "Iliad" city
- Invoice add-on
- Worth a C
- Camera type, briefly
- Like a hopeless situation
- Clinch
- Surgeon's tool
- Mentally acute
- Grade school quintet
- Interminable time
- Actor O'Shea
- Have \_\_\_ (be connected)
- X-rated stuff
- Bit of kindling
- Fruity drinks
- Rush
- Auto co. whose name was its founder's initials

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### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CLAN SCARF ENDS  
YALE LOWER VIEW  
STOW INANE INCA  
THETIMELYOUENJOY  
ONLY DECAYS  
EVENLY PAINE  
MENZA AURA SASS  
INC WASTING MAO  
LIEU REID EPOXY  
PECAN SLAKES  
MOOLAH STIR  
ISNOTWASTEDTIME  
NASA AWARE IDOL  
EKED YOKEL NESS  
RATS SLEWS GATE

su do ku Today's SOLUTIONS														
9	1	4	3	8	7	5	6	2						
2	8	5	1	6	9	4	7	3						
6	3	7	2	4	5	8	9	1						
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4	6	3	8	9	1	7	2	5						
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8	4	9	6	1	3	2	5	7						
3	5	6	9	7	2	1	4	8						

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# Gators ambush Buckeyes, stun college football world with 41-14 title rout

Florida outgained Ohio State 372-82 in yards from scrimmage.

Ben Walker  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not even close.  
Florida — yes Florida — owned the field it wasn't supposed to be on, embarrassing Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State 41-14 on Monday night to run away with the national championship.

Chris Leak and Tim Tebow showed off coach Urban Meyer's twin quarterback system to perfection as the No. 2 Gators became the first Division I school to hold football and basketball titles at the same time.

Now, only one question remains: What about Boise State?

Playing on the very same field where the undefeated Broncos stunned Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day, Florida (13-1) routed the previously unbeaten Buckeyes (13-1).

Former Gators star Emmitt Smith did the chomp on the sidelines, punctuating the amazingly easy victory. That left Florida, Wisconsin and Louisville each with one loss, and surely will renew calls for a playoff system.

Ted Ginn Jr. returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown, then it quickly fell apart for the Buckeyes. He hobbled off minutes later with an injury and by the time he returned for the second half on crutches, Florida led 34-14.

Leak, maligned for never winning the big one, completed 25 of 36 passes for 213 yards and a touchdown. The Rambo-like Tebow threw for one TD and powered into the end



PAUL CONNORS ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida wide receiver Percy Harvin (8) celebrates his four-yard rushing touchdown with teammates in the first quarter of the BCS national title game Monday night in Glendale, Ariz. The Gators torched Ohio State for four touchdowns in the first half on their way to a 41-14 win.

zone for another.

Smith, meanwhile, joined a long list of Heisman Trophy quarterbacks — Jason White, Eric Crouch and Gino Torretta, among them — to fall

apart in bowl games. He was just 4-for-14 with one interception and never showed off his elusive running.

Instead, defensive ends Derrick Harvey and Jarvis Moss made it a

miserable night for Smith. Linebacker Earl Everett got into the act, too, running down Smith despite missing his helmet.

Florida won its second national

title, adding to the one Heisman winner Danny Wuerffel brought home in 1996 under coach Steve Spurrier with a 52-20 over Florida State in the Sugar Bowl.

## Poly men's hoops squad at halfway point

At 6-8 overall, the Mustangs are still searching for their first road win.

Tristan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY

Fourteen games are in the books and 14 games remain for the Cal Poly men's basketball team.

At least until the Big West Conference Tournament, which the Mustangs likely must win if they are to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history.

But first things first.

Halfway through their regular-season schedule, the Mustangs (6-8, 1-3 Big West) have a clear-cut list of things they are doing well and those they hope to improve.

The good includes a 5-2 record at home, a balanced scoring attack and a stout defense in the paint. The bad includes an 0-5 record on the road, poor free-throw shooting and fairly inconsistent rebounding.

"We're in the basketball games right down to the end," Cal Poly head

**COMING WEDNESDAY**  
A look back at all that happened over winter break in Cal Poly sports.

coach Kevin Bromley said Monday at a weekly press conference. "Free-throw shooting hurt us. It's a fine line. You're talking about two possessions a game. I think to win this conference, you've got to split on the road and win all your home games. We're a little bit behind the eight ball, so we've got to make up for that along the way."

The Mustangs are coming off consecutive losses at UC Irvine (66-62) and Long Beach State (77-70) on Thursday and Saturday. Their last win was a 67-64 victory over UC Riverside on Dec. 30, which was preceded by an entertaining 99-91 loss to Cal State Fullerton on Dec. 28.

Led by senior point guard and NBA draft prospect Bobby Brown, Cal State Fullerton (12-3, 3-1) is among the favorites to win the conference during the regular season. But

the Titans are joined atop the standings early in the race by high-flying Long Beach State (11-4, 2-0), defensive-minded UC Santa Barbara (11-4, 3-1) and defending champion Pacific (5-10, 2-1).

"I think it's pretty balanced," Bromley said. "It's going to be a close race. Whoever can win their home games and split on the road has a good shot of winning the conference."

Bromley said there does not appear to be a team in the conference this season that forces opponents to raise their game to another level like when Pacific and former member Utah State were nationally ranked over the past few years.

High points for Cal Poly so far this season included a 72-59 win over St. Mary's as part of a three-game winning streak from Nov. 20-29 and an 82-60 win over Northern Arizona on Dec. 19.

Low points featured an 80-63 loss at woeful San Jose State (1-13) on Dec. 3 and a 95-75 loss at Fresno State on Dec. 23.

Such is the up-and-down life of a young basketball team. Cal Poly has just three seniors on its roster and four sophomores in its rotation.

The Mustangs are 2-4 in games decided by 10 or fewer points.

"We could easily be 3-1 (in conference), but we're not," Bromley said. "You've just got to make sure you have good character kids, which we do have, and really continue to improve, and hopefully some of those close games start going your way."

The same starting five has graced the floor all season to this point — sophomore point guard Trae Clark, junior shooting guard Dawin Whiten, senior small forward Derek Stockalper, senior power forward Tyler McGinn and sophomore center Titus Shelton.

Stockalper (12.6), Whiten (11.9) and McGinn (10.4) all average double-figure scoring. The sixth-man role has been filled mostly by 6-foot-8 junior post player Dreshawn Vance, a Portland transfer who averages 8.0 points and 6.1 rebounds.

At 6-foot-7, Shelton is a natural

power forward, but has played center admirably with averages of 7.9 points, 5.6 rebounds and 1.9 blocks. The son of former NBA All-Star Lonnie Shelton blocked six shots against Cal State Fullerton and had five rejections in two other games this season.

Perhaps the biggest area Cal Poly must improve is free-throw shooting, where it has shot only 56.1 percent. No one on the team who has taken more than six foul shots shoots higher than 76 percent. The Mustangs have also been edged on the boards 518-500 on the season.

"You've got to be solid in all facets of the game," Bromley said. "Offense, defense, free-throw shooting, block-outs, late-game situations have to be solid."

Cal Poly will have a chance to shore up its deficiencies and get back on track when independent UC Davis (2-11), which will officially join the Big West next year, visits at 7 p.m. Thursday. The Mustangs do not resume Big West play until Jan. 20 at rival UC Santa Barbara.